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FARMERS' PROTEST

Centre blames traders for onion price hike

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Civilians caught in crossfire in Gaza

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Opposition walks out of Rajya Sabha

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Decoding Putin's dramatic visit to the Gulf

It may redefine the regional political order

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BATTLE BEGINS

India meets SA in second T20I today

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SC upholds repeal of J&K's special status

- The court says President validly exercised power in removing special privileges under Article 370
- It seeks restoration of Statehood to J&K 'at the earliest', and elections by Sept. 30, 2024
- Decision to carve out the Union Territory of Ladakh is valid, the top court adds

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Monday unanimously upheld the power of the President to abrogate special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution, leading to the reorganisation of the full-fledged State to two Union Territories and the removal of its privileges.

The five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud confirmed that the President could "unilaterally issue a notification that Article 370 ceases to exist".

The court held that the President had the power to do so "if special circumstances warrant a special solution".

"The court cannot sit in appeal over the decision of the President on whether the special circumstances which led to the arrangement under Article 370 have ceased to exist," the Chief Justice reasoned.

The court said the President's decision in August 2019 was the culmination of a "gradual and collaborative exercise" spread over the past 70 years between the Centre and the State to integrate Jammu and Kashmir with the Union. The objective of the integration process was to make the entirety of the rights and obligations enshrined in the Indian Constitution applicable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

'Truth' panel proposed

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, in an epilogue, referred to witnessing the inter-generational trauma caused by violence and mass migration during his travels to Jammu and Kashmir. He proposed the setting up of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to reach out to the people. The court declared the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution "redundant" and "inoperative". It accepted the assurance of the Centre to restore Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir "at the earliest" and directed the Election Commission of India to hold Assembly polls by September 30, 2024.

The court found it unnecessary to examine whether the reorganisation of the State into two Union Territories had been even permissible. The Bench further upheld the carving out of the Union Territory of Ladakh from the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The fact that the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 through an executive order by the President happened after the dissolution of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislative Assembly by the Governor on November 21, 2018 and the subsequent proclamation of President's rule on December 19 did not deter the court.

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Key takeaways

Here is what the Supreme Court said in its verdict on the abrogation of J&K's special status

- Jammu and Kashmir does not have any 'internal sovereignty' different from other States and its status under Article 370 is only a form of asymmetric federalism
- From its historical context, it is clear that Article 370 is only a temporary provision
- The President, in exercise of power under Article 370(3), can unilaterally issue a notification that Article 370 ceases to exist
- When the Constituent Assembly was dissolved, it did not affect the President's power to declare it inoperative

Significant ruling: Senior lawyers, who represented the respondents, react following the SC verdict on Monday. SHIVA KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

J&K parties pledge to 'continue their struggle'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the Centre's decision to dilute provisions of Article 370, with the National Conference's Omar Abdullah and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti pledging to "continue with their political struggle" to restore the pre-August 5, 2019 position.

While Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader M.Y. Tarigami termed the verdict "disturbing for the federal structure of India", J&K Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone called it "disappointing".

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Verdict is a declaration of hope, says PM

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday termed the Supreme Court verdict upholding the Centre's decision on Article 370 as "historic" and one that "in its profound wisdom, has fortified the very essence of unity that we, as Indians, hold dear and cherish above all else". Taking to X (formerly Twitter), Mr. Modi said : "It [the verdict] is a declaration of hope, progress and unity for our sisters and brothers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh."

Give Statehood, conduct election in J&K: Congress

NEW DELHI
The Congress on Monday demanded immediate restoration of Statehood and holding of Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir. The party said the debate on the abrogation of special status for the erstwhile State has ended as the Supreme Court verdict is now the law, but added that the judgment has however left some important issues open.

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NEARBY

Caste census: DKS' stand criticised

MYSURU
Amid reports that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Dy.CM and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar are opposed to each other on releasing the State's caste census report, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge publicly criticised Mr. Shivakumar's stand in Rajya Sabha on Monday. » PAGE 7

Free spoken English coaching

BENGALURU
The government will enter into an MoU with Wadhwani Foundation to teach free spoken English to government college students, Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar told the Legislative Council on Monday. » PAGE 4

76,000 rely on feeder buses

BENGALURU
Following inauguration of the complete Purple Line from Whitefield to Challagatta, the BMTC has extended its metro feeder bus services. Now, more than 76,000 commuters rely on these buses. » PAGE 3

BJP springs a surprise, picks Mohan Yadav as new Madhya Pradesh CM

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Springing a major surprise, the BJP on Monday selected Ujjain-Dakshin (South) MLA Mohan Yadav as its Legislature Party leader and the next Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Apart from Mr. Yadav, who hails from the Other Backward Classes (OBC), the new BJP government will have two Deputy Chief Ministers – Malhargarh MLA Jagdish Devda, a Dalit, and Rewa MLA Rajendra Shukla, a Brahmin.

Jubilation erupts: BJP MLA Mohan Yadav after being elected as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, in Bhopal, on Monday. PTI

The OBCs constitute about 52% of the State's population while there are nearly 17% people from the Scheduled Castes.

Former Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has been chosen as the next Assembly Speaker.

Set to become the 19th Chief Minister of the State, Mr. Yadav's name was proposed by outgoing Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at the BJP Legislature Party meet in Bhopal and supported by party leaders, including Mr. Tomar, Kailash Vijayvargiya and Prahlad Singh Patel, Madhya Pradesh BJP president V.D. Sharma said.

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AN OBC FACE
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Retail inflation is now 'stable', says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's consumer price inflation is now "stable" and within the 2% to 6% tolerance band, having dipped from an average of 7.1% between April and October 2022 to an average 5.4% over the same period of this year, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

Retail inflation had dipped to a four-month low of 4.87% in October.

FULL REPORT
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Festive spirit

Teppotsava, a beautified boat mandapam with the idol of Dodda Basavanna floats on Kempambudhi Kere, a 16th-century lake said to be built by Kempe Gowda in honour of his family deity Kempamma, in Bengaluru on Monday. Teppotsava has been a part of Kadalekayi Parishe for centuries. K. MURALI KUMAR

El Niño impact: Warm winter awaits Bengalureans

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru is likely to witness warmer winter months between December 2023 and February 2024. The Meteorological Department forecasts that the winter months will witness above normal minimum and maximum temperatures.

"Normally in Bengaluru temperatures drop down by the third week of December. This year we will also see a dip but the winter will not be harsh or as intense as last year because of the El Niño factor," said A. Prasad, scientist, India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru.

Motorists braving the mist on Tumakuru Road, near NICE Road junction. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Prasad said that the forecasts suggest that Bengaluru's winter temperatures will be above normal.

"January is the coldest month of the winter season. The average minimum temperature in Bengaluru for the month of December is 16.4 degrees Celsius and for January it is 16.1°C. However, this winter, the temperature is likely to see a rise by 1°C and the minimum temperature is likely to be around 17.4 and 17.1°C for December and January respectively," Mr. Prasad said.

He did not rule out chilly mornings and nights for a few days along with fog conditions prevailing in the city and the outskirts. "There will definitely be chill. Fog conditions will also persist but they will be there for very few days as this winter may not be that harsh," Mr. Prasad.

He added that winter is yet to begin in Bengaluru as the north east monsoon is not yet over.

As per the Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru observation data recorded at 6 p.m. on December 11, Bengaluru city recorded a maximum of 29°C and a minimum of 19.5°C with a relative humidity of 62%. Likewise HAL airport recorded a maximum and minimum of 28.8 and 17.7°C with a relative humidity of 54%.

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Woman assaulted, tied to a pole after son elopes with girl

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A woman was allegedly assaulted before being tied to a pole and partially stripped in Vantamuri village in Belagavi district of Karnataka on Monday, after her son eloped with a girl he was in love with. The girl's engagement was scheduled for the day but she eloped with a boy from the same village on Sunday night. The boy and girl are from the same community.

When the relatives realised that the girl had disappeared, they rushed to the boy's house, ransacked it and beat up his mother. She was tied to a pole in front of her house and partially stripped. A villager informed the police who rescued the woman.

Officers from Kakati police station arrested Gangavva, Sangeeta, Kempanna and three others. A case has been registered.

Minister for Women and Child Welfare Laxmi Hebbalkar called on the victim who is recuperating in the district hospital. When the Minister reached, the victim's relatives started crying uncontrollably. They told her that the victim was alone at the time of the attack. Her husband, Lagamanna, a truck driver, was on duty. Lagamanna said, "I was in Pune when I got a call about the attack. I rushed back. We are seeking justice. We have told the Minister that all the accused should be punished."

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Ashwini-Tanisha partnership — a successful amalgam of energy, experience and enthusiasm

Since pairing up from January this year, the two have claimed three titles from four finals, attained a World ranking of 23 and have a great chance of qualifying for the Paris Olympics to be held next year

RITU RAJ KONWAR

K. Keerthivasan

There was a time in badminton player Ashwini Ponnappa's life last year when she had doubts about how her career was progressing. She had mutually ended her five-year partnership with Sikki Reddy and there were enough reasons for the short break that Ashwini took.

One, she wasn't getting any younger after what she had achieved in a career spanning 13 years. A bronze in the World Championships, a gold and silver in the Commonwealth Games, an Asian championship bronze, and quite a few BWF tour titles that not many can emulate.

Drawn to each other

It was at this time that the young and dashing Tanisha Crasto came on to the scene. While training at the Gopi Chand Academy in Hyderabad, Ashwini watched the youngster in action and immediately took a liking to her attitude and stroke-play.

After a discussion, the two decided to pair up for the world tour from January this year. In a span of 11 months, the pair has had a good season, winning three titles from four finals. The recent success at the Yonex-Sunrise Guwahati Masters BWF Tour Super 100 tournament augurs well for the duo's ambition of qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The Indians will now jump to World No. 23 on December 12, a career-high for the pair.

Having a seasoned player like Ashwini is a boon for the 20-year-old Tanisha. The 34-year-old doesn't brood over the losses and instead discusses with her younger partner the mistakes they made and the way forward.

The defeat in the second round of the Arctic Open in October this year in Vantaa (Finland) was an eye-opener.

"This year, there was quite a bit of learning at the Finland Open. The draw was favourable. But unfortunately, we didn't deliver up to our expectations. That was the biggest lesson for us on how to deal with our mind," said Ashwini.

Tanisha, born in Dubai to Indian parents, is an exciting talent. Electric at the net, diving to retrieve shots, able to pounce on anything remotely high, and going for the 'kill' are valuable assets in doubles. On the other hand, Ashwini is measured in her movements, keeps her cool under pressure, and is the right foil for Tanisha.

"This has been the best partnership at any event for me. I enjoy playing with *didi* (sister). She is a legend in women's doubles. I used to look up to her when I was a little girl. I am still learning. She is calm, smiling, and very hard-working. These are qualities I seek to learn," said Tanisha.

Happy with the progress

Ashwini, too, values the high-octane drive that Tanisha brings to the game. "Tanisha is young and her energy is what drew her to me. She is someone who complements my game style, and who wants to do well. That's the vibe I got when I used to watch her play. We've had some good wins and some tough losses. The journey has just began and I'm happy that we've come this far," said Ashwini.

On how the partnership was formed, Tanisha said it was 'done casually over food' at the Gopi Chand Academy. Ashwini retorted, "It was not casual. Around November 2022, I had taken a break which was much needed. Tanisha was doing well in mixed doubles with Ishaan (Bhatnagar). We were keen to play with each other and that was the starting point."

In the recently concluded Guwahati Masters, the pair was a delight to watch. Thanks to Tanisha's raw energy, sliding dives, smashes, and Ashwini's calmness and meticulous movements on court, the two dominated the tournament by not losing even a game.

But there are quite a few areas they still have to work on. There were phases when there was confusion as to who could take the shot when the shuttle was in the middle of the backcourt. In a fit of excitement, Tanisha, at times, does make quite a few needless mistakes.

"Ashwini has got a lot of calmness on court. Since I am more of an aggressive player, she brings the right balance," said Tanisha.

The thought of qualifying for Paris does engage the duo's mind. The two want to play well and do not think too much about the quadrennial event. "There is always a possibility (of qualifying). We have lots of tournaments left. We want to focus on them and do well," said Ashwini.

Echoed Tanisha: "I am actually looking at one match at a time. My goal is to perform well in every match. Results will follow. If the Olympics is written for me, it will come to me."

Quick learner

Ashwini praised Tanisha for being a quick learner. Having played with four other different partners, the senior knows what she is talking about

"At different points in my life, I've had different partners. I have grown a lot over the years. I am constantly evolving. At this moment, I enjoy playing with Tanisha. I love the energy and excitement she has. I am also learning from her.

"I love the fact that Tanisha is a fast learner. Understanding concepts as a pair on court is critical and crucial. You tell Tanisha something, she will take it up, try and go for it. That's a quality that lots of players don't have," praised Ashwini.

There is little doubt that the pair has plenty of potential to make it to Paris. Of course, it is not going to be easy, as the duo of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopi Chand is ranked higher (World 19). Still, Ashwini and Tanisha offer hope.

THE GIST

- Ashwini felt that the Finland Open was a game-changer as the duo learnt a lot there
- The senior pro said she loved playing with Tanisha for the energy and excitement the latter brings
- According to the younger partner, it is Ashwini who brings a lot of calmness on court

CLAT 2024: Student-teacher duo from Bengaluru secure All India Ranking 2 and 3

Rahul Reddy, the 50-year-old educator, explained that appearing for the exam is his way of assessing the strategies and tactics that are taught to students in his coaching centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pradhyot Shah and (right) Rahul Reddy

In an instance of a student surpassing a teacher, Bengaluru-based Pradyot Shah secured All India Ranking (AIR) 2 in the Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) 2024 while the director of his coaching centre Rahul Reddy secured AIR 3. The results were declared on Sunday.

Pradhyot is a student of class XII in Aditi Mallya International School where he is studying science. "I initially took up law to test waters. But once I started studying, I realised that it was something I really wanted to continue in and hence, I attempted CLAT. I was honestly not expecting to get an all-India ranking," he said.

He added that while he has decided to get admitted to National Law School of India University (NLSIU), he has not planned what he wants to do beyond that. He also said he was passionate about science.

Rahul Reddy, the 50-year-old educator, explained that appearing for the exam was his way of assessing the strategies and tactics that are taught to students in his coaching centre.

"While we teach skills to students to solve examinations, a major part of it is exam strategy and time optimisation. As teachers, we like to keep in touch with variations in the exam, and see if the strategies and tactics that we teach actually work. It also helps improve our teaching skills," Mr. Reddy said.

While Mr. Reddy has taken the exam twice before, he got his best score this year. When asked about Pradyot, he said:"We both actually had the same scores, but he had a better score in legal, which acted as a tie-breaker and pushed him up a spot."

CLAT 2024 was organised on December 3 in 139 centres across India. The results were released by the Consortium of National Law Universities.

A male candidate from Rajasthan secured AIR 1 with 100 percentile, while six candidates (five male and one female) secured 99.99 percentile in the CLAT UG category. Two of those candidates are from Karnataka.

Two others from Karnataka secured 99.94 and 99.91 percentile, respectively. No candidate from Karnataka figured in the CLAT PG toppers list.

The overall attendance percentage for CLAT 2024 was 96.45%. Of the candidates, 57% were females, 43% males, and six candidates were transgender.

IISc researchers suggest ways to make non-responsive cancer cells respond to immunotherapy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers Dipankar Nandi, Avik Chattopadhyay, Nikita Ramteke, Sirisha Jagdish, and Aagosh Karhale at the IISc, Bengaluru.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), in a new study, have tried to understand how different types of cancer cells respond to Interferon-gamma (IFN-γ) activation.

According to IISc, cancer immunotherapy primes a patient's immune system to better find and destroy cancer cells, improving upon the body's natural ability to fight tumours.

"Contemporary immunotherapy approaches aim to stimulate immune cells called T cells to target tumours. In this process, the production and functioning of a cytokine (a small signalling protein) known as IFN-γ are essential for the immune system to eliminate tumours effectively. These approaches affect fewer normal cells when compared to chemotherapy or radiation. However, they are either very expensive or less efficient," IISc said.

In the study they found that only some types of cancer cells respond well to IFN-γ activation, while others don't. They also suggest some approaches that can be used to make these non-responsive cancer cells better respond to immunotherapy.

"IFN-γ is produced by immune cells such as T cells or natural killer cells. It binds to tumours, and induces apoptosis (cell death). Reports in the literature have shown earlier that if there are lower amounts of IFN-γ or defects in its signalling, then the tumours don't respond well to the immunotherapy processes," said Avik Chattopadhyay, first author and PhD student at the Department of Biochemistry, IISc.

In the current study, when the team first treated cancer cells in the lab with IFN-γ, they found that the colour of the cell growth medium changed to yellow, indicating that the cells were releasing acidic byproducts such as lactic acid. This led the team to dig deeper into the role of these byproducts. They found that the higher amounts of lactic acid produced in the cell culture medium was due to increased glycolysis, a series of chemical reactions that extracts energy from glucose.

Oxidative damage

The team found that cancer cell lines derived from the liver and the kidney showed increased production of nitric oxide (NO) and lactic acid upon IFN-γ activation.

This, in turn, increased the production of toxic reactive oxygen species (ROS) leading to oxidative damage, which eventually kills the cancer cells.

However, cancer cell lines derived from the colon and skin did not produce NO or lactic acid even after being treated with IFN-γ. indicating that they might respond poorly to immunotherapy.

NCBS study paves way for development of new treatment for bipolar disorder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A study conducted by National Centre for Biological ScieBengalurunces (NCBS) researchers has revealed how lithium acts on brain cells to change neural activity. This finding, according to NCBS, could offer a potential pathway for the development of new treatments and precision medicine for bipolar disorder.

"Bipolar disorder stands as the sixth leading cause of disability globally demanding effective therapeutic intervention. While mood stabilisers like lithium are the go-to treatment to soothe a bipolar brain, only about one-third of patients benefit from lithium treatment. The remaining patients with bipolar disorder show limited or no response to lithium treatment," said NCBS.

One of the reasons for this inability to predict the response of an individual to treatment is a lack of clear understanding of how lithium acts on the brain leading to an improvement in a patient's condition, it added.

"To understand why some patients do not respond to lithium treatment, we need to know how lithium exerts its effects," said Sankhanil Saha, lead author of the study.

In the brain, communication between cells leading to normal behaviour occurs through chemicals called neurotransmitters. These neurotransmitters, such as serotonin or glutamate bind to receptors in the neural cell membrane that switch on an enzyme called phospholipase C (PLC).

The role of PLC is to break down a lipid molecule-phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate (PIP2) into inositol1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP3) which orchestrates changes in calcium levels within the cells. Calcium performs many functions within the brain and previous studies that altered calcium levels within neurons is a likely basis for bipolar disorder.

"In individuals with Bipolar Affective Disorder (BPAD), the PIP2 pathway is in hyperactive mode which leads to elevated calcium levels in the cell," Mr. Sankhanil said.

To understand lithium's stabilising effect, they treated lab-grown cortical cells of the human forebrain with neurotransmitters to mimic the activity of a bipolar patient's brain cells. This activated the PLC, mimicking the overstimulated cells of a bipolar brain. On adding lithium to the mix, the team observed a delay in the resynthesis of PIP2. Consequently, it slowed down the formation of IP3 and reduced calcium influx that dampened the activity of neurons.

Delayed synthesis

The research team further investigated how lithium delayed the PIP2 re-synthesis. In subsequent experiments, they discovered that lithium interacts with an enzyme IMPA1, suppressing it from catalysing the formation of Inositol, essential for a continuous supply of PIP2 in the cells.

"The insights from our study into how lithium acts on human brain cells will pave the way for lab tests to help doctors predict which bipolar patients will respond to lithium. It will be valuable for doctors to clearly predict which patient will respond to a given medicine to devise a treatment uniquely suited for that individual; this is a very exciting area called precision medicine," said Raghu Padinjat, professor, NCBS.

MoU signed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Samskrita Vishwavidyalaya and Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous signed a memorandum of understanding. The college said it will provide the institutions with enhanced opportunities in intellectual capabilities of teachers, development of training systems for students with focus on Bharatiya Knowledge System.

Man cheats govt. official of ₹10.7 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cybercrime police are trying to track down the accused, who posed as a TRAI official

Posing as a TRAI official, a cyber fraudster cheated a senior official with the State Finance Department and made away with ₹10.7 lakh from his bank account on Tuesday.

Based on the complaint, the cybercrime police have registered an FIR against the unknown person charging him under 66C (identity theft) and 66D (cheating by impersonation) under IT Act.

The victim, in his complaint, said on December 5, he received a call on his mobile phone from Mumbai claiming to be a TRAI official stating that he was sending objectionable messages to members of the public.

Details of bank account

The caller also informed him that there was an FIR booked against him and he would be arrested soon. The caller said there were many irregularities and transactions linked to his bank accounts and took the details of two of his bank accounts on the pretext of verification. Minutes later, he realised that ₹10,73,047 had been transferred from his account.

The cybercrime police are trying to track down the accused through the bank transactions.

The police have requested people not to entertain any calls made in the name of police officials or government officials asking for personal details.

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
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No.CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-2)/2023-24/16482 Date: 05-12-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Portal Only)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Services as mentioned below:

Sl.No.	Jurisdiction	Enquiry no./Date
1.	Providing 75 Nos of temporary Manpower (helpers) to carry out breakdown, maintenance and erection of distribution line works in O & M division Madikeri on total turnkey basis.	C2-5579/27-11-2023
2.	Services of providing manpower resources to all Offices of CESC.	C2-5581/05-12-2023
3.	Providing 5 MT and above payload LPT vehicle /Mini Lorry Service with Cargo length compatible to carry 9 mtr RCC Poles along with driver to O & M offices in **Chamarajanagara Circle** Jurisdiction.	C2-5582/05-12-2023

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **14.12.2023**. For clarification contact help desk **+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777** or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/- General Manager (Procurement), CESC, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/731/2023-24

Profit, a tough nut to crack for vendors at Kadalekai Parishe

Surabhi Gorebal
Navya Naveli
BENGALURU

Kadalekai Parishe on Bull Temple Road was formally inaugurated on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Although they arrived at the annual Kadalekai Parishe (groudnut fair) in the hopes of making profits, the groundnut vendors at the extravagant cultural fair reported that they saw a dip in business this year. The Parishe was formally inaugurated on Monday, but Bull Temple Road was thronged by visitors during the weekend.

Rajaram, a groundnut seller from Ramachandrapura, said: "This year's profit is significantly lower. While last year I earned ₹5,000, this year I am struggling to even make ₹4,000. I bought groundnuts from the farmers for ₹160 per kg and selling them at ₹50 for 200 gm."

Lakshmi A., vendor from Mallasandra, said: "I am selling groundnuts at ₹50 per litre; the price has remained the same as last year. People come here for the Kadalekai Parishe but indulge more at food stalls and buying clothes. Groundnut sales have not picked up this year. I anticipated this event for a month, but the profit falls short of last year's."

However, the customers have their own problems with purchasing groundnuts at the fair. S Nagaraja, a 73-year-old resident of Jayanagar, said: "Most of the good groundnuts are taken by the oil companies and different manufacturers. This is why people are hesitant to buy groundnuts from vendors."

Apart from a dip in business, groundnut farmers, many of whom had come to sell their crop, said the lack of rainfall this year affected the quality of the groundnuts. Along with farmers and sellers from Karnataka, the fair also had farmers from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

Tender Notice No. 09-S&T/MYS/2023-01 & 02
Dated : 04-12-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Annual Repair Contract for integrated power supply system of M/s Amara Raja make at Chamarajanagar, Nanjangud Town, Kadakola, Chikkamagalur, Sakarayapatna, Shivani, Hosadurga Road, Holalkere, Ramagiri, Chikjajur-2, Koravangala, Mysuru, Birur-2, Ballupete, Donigal, Kadagaravalli, Yedakumari, Yedamangala, Subrahmanya Road, Narimogaru, Neralakatte Halt, Shiribagilu, Byadgi-2, Belagula-2 (Byadarahalli, Pandavapura, Shrirangapattana(IB), Naganahalli, Bennehalli, Harapanahallli, Teligi, LC-50 B/W Shimoga Town - Kumsi, LC-52 B/W Shimoga Town - Kumsi, LC-51 B/W Akkihebbalu - Mandagere from 15.04.2024) over Mysuru Division for 2 years.	Rs. 76,02,360.34
2	Annual Repair Contract for integrated power supply system of HBL Power Systems Ltd at Davangere, Tolahunse, Shimoga Town, Tiptur, Kumsi, Anandapuram, Masarahalli, Sagara Jambagaru, Talguppa, Sasalu, Sivapur, Mayakonda, Kodaganur, Arsikere-2, Adihalli, Honnavalli Road, Bhadravati, Banavar, Habanghatta, Devanur, Bageshapura, Mavinkere, Challakere, Balenahalli, Hassan-2, Mandagere, Bantawala, Kabakaputtur, Sakleshpur, Ammasandra, LC 86 B/W Tiptur - Honnavalli Road, LC 81 B/W Kardi - Tiptur, Lc 88 B/w Tiptur - Honnavalli Road, LC - 78 B/W Narimogaru - Yedamangala, LC 207 B/W Amaravathi Colony - Harihar, LC 196 B/W Tolahunse - Davangere, LC-177 B/W Sasalu - Mayakonda, LC-238 B/W Haveri - Karajgi, LC-217 B/W Ranibennur - Chalgeri, LC No. 190 Between Kodaganur - Tolahunse Over Mysuru Division For 2 Years.	Rs. 79,95,903.84

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 Hrs on 26-12-2023

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer
Mysuru

PUB/549/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE-42
E.mail ID : apsbangalore@gmail.com, Tele No : 080-25581238

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION – 18 DEC 2023 (0900HRS)

TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE WORK / SUPPLY AT ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE - 42

Tender No	Description of Work
APS/109/2023-24	School Security Guard (09 pers for 24/7, 365 days) (Guard should be below 35 yrs of age with min 5 ft 7 Inch height)
APS/110/2023-24	Two-wheeler, Electric Vehicle
APS/111/2023-24	Construction of new pathway edge wall 700 sqft and painting of gazebo shed and repair of granite tiles
APS/112/2023-24	Construction of Prefabricated Rooms from NCC, Band & Music classes with allied works (Details on school website)
APS/113/2023-24	Construction of Corridors/Pathways for prefabricated assembly hall and Class Rooms (Details on school website)
APS/114/2023-24	Installation & Repair of 1.5KW Solar Inverter with AMC and New Cabinet
APS/115/2023-24	Installation & Repair of 10 KVA UPS with AMC and New Cabinet (Primary Sec)
APS/116/2023-24	Replacement of Projector Bulbs NEC V260 – 02 Nos, VE 281X- 02 Nos, Ricoh PJX5260 – 01 Nos
APS/117/2023-24	Modification of 01 x Class Room with modular benches (45 Nos), 01 x Teacher Bench & 01 x Locker with 46 Cabinets with number/ digital lock
APS/118/2023-24	Sports Banners and Medals (Gold, Silver & Bronze -170 Nos each)

Separate quotations are invited for the above mentioned works / supply of items. Submit sealed quotation super scribed on the envelope **"TENDER FOR _____"** to reach at **ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE** on or before **18 Dec 2023 by 0900hrs.**

Origin mystery of mummified baboons finally cracked

The Egyptian god Thoth was represented by a baboon, which is odd because baboons aren't native to Egypt. An interdisciplinary team recently cracked the long-standing mystery of where these baboons came from using ancient DNA from a mummified animal at the Gabbanat el-Qurud site

Sanjukta Mondal

Mummified baboons have been found in Egypt and researchers have wondered about their origin since the animal is not native to Egypt. This red quartzite baboon statue found n Egypt, dates back to 1391-1353 BC.. TIM EVANSON (CC BY-SA 2.0)

In 1905, Louis Lortet and Claude Gaillard travelled from France to Luxor, an Egyptian city on the banks of the river Nile, to investigate the discovery of mummified monkeys in Gabbanat el-Qurud, a.k.a. 'Valley of the Monkeys'.

Lortet and Gaillard, both Egyptologists, were able to retrieve 17 skulls and a large quantity of bones that belonged - surprisingly - to baboons. Baboons are not native to Egypt, and the scholars weren't sure where they could have come from.

Indeed, for more than a century after their discovery, the origins of the baboons continued to puzzle scientists.

An interdisciplinary team of scientists recently cracked this long-standing mystery. The project was led by primatologist Gisela Kopp of the University of Konstanz, Germany, and the team's paper was published in the journal *eLife*.

What evidence did the study use?

The scientists have reported that using mitochondrial DNA, they were able to trace the baboons to the ancient city of Adulis, in present-day coastal Eritrea, and a bustling trade centre between the first and seventh centuries AD.

Members of the team were able to retrieve ancient DNA from a mummified baboon found at the Gabbanat el-Qurud site. By comparing it to the DNA of modern baboons, they hoped to understand where the ancient individuals could've come from.

"My collaborators and I have done a lot of research on a genetic variation in baboons. So, we have very good coverage of the data distribution throughout Africa [where baboons live today] for actual comparison," Dr. Kopp told this writer.

In a happy addition, the team's study also shed some light on the possible current location of the lost city of Punt. "Locating Punt is important because it drove the evolution of long-distance maritime technology for nearly 1,200 years," Nathaniel Dominy, an anthropologist from Dartmouth University and a coauthor of this study, said."When we learned about the existence of mummified baboons in Egypt, it occurred that they could be material evidence of trade with Punt."

Why is a baboon mummy puzzling?

Ancient Egyptians did mummify animals. Mummified cats were buried with their owners in the hope of reuniting them in the afterlife. They were also given as offerings to Bastet, the goddess of fertility and war who had the head of a cat.

Older studies have also reported that Egyptians removed the canine teeth of these baboons and bred them in captivity to be mummified later, as a votive gift to Thoth, the god of wisdom and the moon, often depicted as a baboon with a heavy mane.

But the latter was strange because Egypt isn't a natural habitat for baboons. *Papio anubis* and *Papio hamadryas*, the species whose mummies were found, are actually indigenous to Sub-Saharan Africa and the southwestern Arabian Peninsula.

Dr. Kopp called Thoth "the only god and in all the gods that they have that is represented by an animal that didn't exist there, at least to our knowledge and from all the evidence that we have."

How did mitochondrial DNA help?

The concentration of strontium isotopes in soil, water, and local plants varies from place to place. When living creatures eat food and drink water, the strontium leaves a geographical impression in their teeth, bones, and hair. The same goes for the concentration of oxygen in these body parts.

For a 2020 study, Dr. Dominy and his team matched the concentrations of oxygen and strontium isotopes in teeth, bone, and hair samples from mummified baboons to those in parts of the Horn of Africa, which encompasses modern-day Eritrea as well as Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen.

However, this method is less useful with animals that are bred in captivity because the isotope levels in their body parts would then point to a life in Egypt.

So the researchers turned to the genetic material in the mitochondria - the powerhouse of every cell in our bodies. This mitochondrial DNA has been used to trace the ancestry of an animal to its source population with greater accuracy.

It presents a different challenge, however: the DNA thus extracted needs to be fit for analysis, and shouldn't have degraded or otherwise have been corrupted by mummification.

Scientists used to think that the chemical processes by which the bodies of people and animals are mummified together with Egypt's hot, arid conditions were suitable to preserve soft tissues, facial features, and even tattoos but not DNA. But then a study published in 2017 became one of the first to successfully recover DNA from a human mummy, paving the way for the genetic analysis of mummified remains.

> Researchers matched concentrations of oxygen and strontium isotopes in teeth, bone, and hair samples to those in parts of the Horn of Africa, which encompasses Eritrea as well as Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, and Yemen

Following suit, Dr. Kopp and her team obtained DNA samples from 14 baboon specimens preserved in museums between 1855 and 1978, and one mummified sample from Gabbanat el-Qurud that's now part of the Musée des Confluences's collection in France.

The subsequent analysis pointed them to a distinct part of present-day Eritrea, and by extension Adulis, as the geographical origin of the monkeys.

How are Adulis and Punt connected?

The texts and other accounts of Pliny the Elder, Strabo, and other scholars mention Adulis as Egypt's trading partner for luxury goods and live animals between 332 BC and 395 AD. The mummified sample used by Kopp et al, however, was dated to between 800 BC and 500 BC, which is long before Adulis's rise as a trading centre.

Instead, artwork and texts that are roughly as old as the mummies refer to a place called Punt as the source of leopard skin, gold, and live exotic animals. "There were depictions from ancient Egypt that showed baboons on these ships when they did the expeditions to Punt ... but nobody really knew where Punt was located," Dr. Kopp said.

She added that the results of the new study, read together with evidence from history and Dr. Dominy's isotope studies, establish a "geographical continuity" between Punt and Adulis. For decades, scholars have wondered if Punt and Adulis were different names for a common trading centre separated by millennia, and the new findings support this interpretation.

Dr. Dominy also said that the findings, guided by the accounts of Greco-Roman historians, draw attention to the importance of the Red Sea as a major node in the history of trade relationships between Indian, Egypt, and Europe.

What next?

"Our work is one of the first instances where we successfully analysed ancient DNA from non-human primates," said Dr. Kopp. "Also, it is fascinating to see how a tiny sample from an ancient mummified animal could help us understand the trade routes that existed long before we came along and long before we established different technologies to trace them."

Since their study was based on the genetic analysis of a single mummy, members of the team plan to explore more ancient DNA from baboons from different periods to acquire a clearer picture of the relationship between Egyptians and baboons. In most civilisations where baboons and humans have lived together, the primates have usually been considered a nuisance.

(Sanjukta Mondal is a chemist-turned-science-writer with experience in writing popular science articles and scripts for STEM YouTube channels.)

A fossilized male mosquito trapped in amber dated to about 130 million years ago was found in central Lebanon . VIA REUTERS

Mosquito fossil has blood-sucking surprise

Reuters

Lakhs of people worldwide are killed every year by malaria and other diseases spread through the bite of mosquitoes, insects that date back to the age of dinosaurs. All of these bites are inflicted by females, which possess specialised mouth anatomy that their male counterparts lack.

But it has not always been that way. Researchers said they have discovered the oldest-known fossils of mosquitoes: two males entombed in pieces of amber dating to 130 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period, found near the town of Hammana in Lebanon. To their surprise, the male mosquitoes possessed elongated piercing-sucking mouthparts seen now only in females.

"Clearly they were hematophagous," meaning blood-eaters, said palaeontologist Dany Azar of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology and Lebanese University, lead author of the study published this week in the journal *Current Biology*. "So this discovery is a major one in the evolutionary history of mosquitoes."

The two fossilised mosquitoes, both

Researchers suspect mosquitoes evolved from insects that did not consume blood. Mouthparts adapted for blood meals were probably used to pierce plants to get access to nutritious fluids

representing the same extinct species, are similar in size and appearance to modern mosquitoes, though the mouthparts used for obtaining blood are shorter than in today's female mosquitoes.

"Mosquitoes are the most notorious blood-feeders on humans and most terrestrial vertebrates, and they transmit a certain number of parasites and diseases to their hosts," Dr. Azar said.

"Only fertilised female mosquitoes will suck blood, because they need proteins to make their eggs develop. Males and unfertilised females will eat some nectar from plants. And some males do not feed at all," Dr. Azar added.

Some flying insects - tsetse flies, for instance - have hematophagous males. But not modern mosquitoes.

"Finding this behaviour in the Cretaceous is quite surprising," said paleontologist and study co-author André Nel of the National Museum of Natural History of Paris.

The delicate anatomy of the two mosquitoes was beautifully preserved in the fossils. Both displayed exceptionally sharp and triangle-shaped jaw anatomy and an elongated structure with tooth-like projections.

The researchers said they suspect that mosquitoes evolved from insects that did not consume blood. They hypothesise that the mouthparts that became adapted for obtaining blood meals originally were used to pierce plants to get access to nutritious fluids.

Plant evolution may have played a role in the feeding divergence between male and female mosquitoes. At the time when these two mosquitoes became stuck in tree sap that eventually became amber, flowering plants were beginning to flourish for the first time on the Cretaceous landscape.

"In all hematophagous insects, we believe that hematophagy was a shift from plant liquid sucking to bloodsucking," Dr. Azar said.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

U.S. FDA approves gene therapies to treat sickle cell disease

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

One of these treatments is called Casgevy, which uses a genome-editing technology called CRISPR/Cas9. The developers of CRISPR won the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 2020. What does CRISPR stand for?

QUESTION 2

Name the developers of CRISPR in the previous question.

QUESTION 3

In Casgevy, CRISPR/Cas9 is used to modify the DNA in a patient's blood stem cells in specific places. These modified cells are transplanted back into the patient, where they multiply inside the bone marrow and improve _____ delivery in the body. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

The other therapy that was approved is called _____. Here, a patient's blood stem cells are genetically modified to produce a haemoglobin similar to normal adult haemoglobin (unaffected by sickle cell disease). These cells are then transplanted into the patient. Fill in the blank.

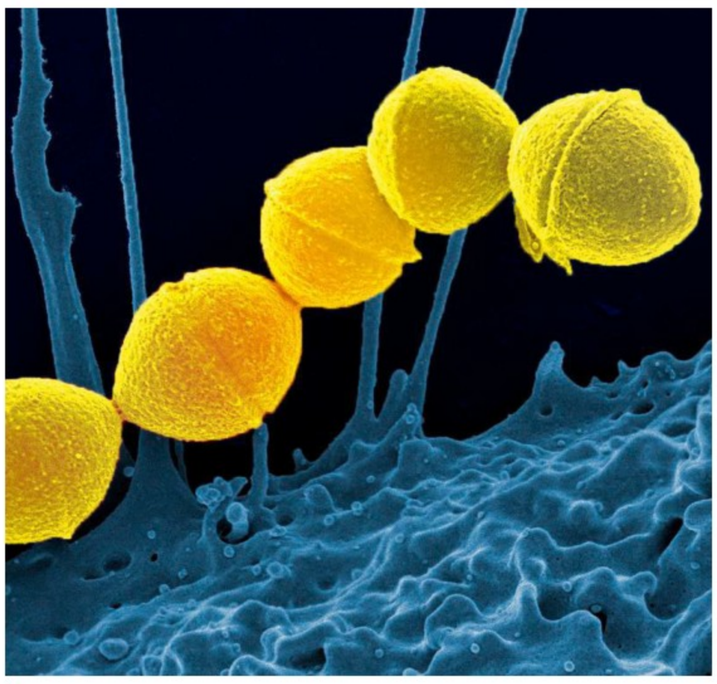
QUESTION 5

When both therapies were being tested in clinical trials, one of the targeted outcomes was whether they reduced the incidence of ____-_____ _____. These events happen when the sickle-shaped red blood cells of people with sickle cell disease limit the oxygen delivered to tissues. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to December 7 quiz:

1. Dying in the 1990s, this lake was later restored and called "India's best kept secret" – **Ans: Chilika Lake, Odisha**
2. Lake where 'Yeh chand sa roshan chehra' was shot – **Ans: Dal Lake, Kashmir**
3. Famed for its phums and hosts a floating national park – **Ans: Loktak Lake, Manipur**
4. Reservoir formed by the Bhakra Dam and named for 10th Sikh guru – **Ans: Gobind Sagar**
5. Heart-shaped lake built by Quli Qutb Shah – **Ans: Hussain Sagar Lake**

First contact: Sanjana V. | Pratibha Lohiya | Akshay Pathange | Varshinidevi K. | Khushboo Jangid



Name the bacteria (shown above) that naturally use a CRISPR/Cas9 system to modify their DNA. NIAID (CC BY 2.0)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Over 76,000 commuters rely on BMTC metro feeder buses every day

The Transport Minister was addressing a query during the Winter Session of the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BMTC runs 2,012 daily trips of feeder buses connecting metro stations to areas in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Following inauguration of the complete Purple Line from Whitefield to Challagatta, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has extended its metro feeder bus services. Now, more than 76,000 commuters in Bengaluru rely on these buses as the metro network continues to expand.

Addressing a query during the winter session of the Assembly in Belagavi regarding the functioning of metro feeder buses in Bengaluru, Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy revealed that 76,468 passengers utilise the 134 feeder bus services every day.

According to Mr. Reddy, the data indicates 2,012 daily trips of feeder buses connecting different metro stations and areas in the city. Among these routes, the MF-5 route stands out with the highest ridership, registering 13,949 passengers traveling daily between Central Silk Board and Swami Vivekananda Metro station.

The recently introduced feeder bus services aim to enhance connectivity between major tech corridors, including the Outer Ring Road (ORR), and metro stations, addressing last-mile connectivity issues. According to a senior BMTC official, the routes were launched to connect Hoodi Metro Station to K.R. Puram, J.P. Nagar station to J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Jayanagar 9th Block round trip, Banashankari to BTM Layout (Kuvempunagar), Chikkabanavara to Nagasandra, and K.R. Pura Metro Station to Central Silk Board, serving commuters in the tech corridor of the ORR and Kadugodi.

Mr. Reddy told *The Hindu*, "The BMTC is expanding its fleet of feeder bus services, with specific emphasis on linking metro stations. Presently, there are 38 buses, comprising AC and non-AC, operating on four recently-established feeder routes. The primary goal of these routes is to enhance metro accessibility, particularly for employees working in firms along ORR and in the eastern and south-eastern regions of the city."

17-year-old escapes from NIMHANS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 17-year-old student from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh, who was brought to NIMHANS in Bengaluru, to get treatment for mobile addiction, escaped from the hospital on Saturday. The father of the boy, a farmer, filed a complaint with the Siddapura police on Sunday.

The boy was addicted to online games and was referred to NIMHANS. He was admitted on December 4 as an in-patient. A doctor referred him to Indira Gandhi hospital for further treatment. After discharge, the family was escorting the boy to Indira Gandhi hospital around 4 p.m. when he escaped. They searched the hospital premises before approaching the police for help.

The police alerted the control room along with the boy's profile.

Man caught carrying gold in innerwear

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of customs and air intelligence on Sunday caught a passenger carrying ₹55 lakh worth of gold bar concealed in his underwear.

The accused was caught after he landed from Dubai at Kempegowda International Airport and tried to pass through the checks.

The gold bar weighing 907 gm was concealed in the specially designed layer and waistline of his pants.

Gang arrested for murder of auto driver

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Byatarayanapura police have arrested a group of 11 people for allegedly hacking an autorickshaw driver to death over an old rivalry on December 6.

The deceased, Arun, a resident of Timberyard Layout, used to harass the accused Harish and his associates frequently. They confronted Arun at Timberyard and hacked him to death, said the police.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, DEC. 12	
RISE	06:32 SET 17:55
RISE	05:43 SET 17:17
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13	
RISE	06:32 SET 17:55
RISE	06:44 SET 18:16
THURSDAY, DEC. 14	
RISE	06:33 SET 17:55
RISE	07:47 SET 19:19

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	30	22
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
29°C Morning will be pleasant. The weather will be slight warm and humid. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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KSAT online proceedings disrupted with objectionable photos

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the disruption in High Court proceedings, a similar cyber attack occurred in court hall 1 of Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal (KSAT) when objectionable videos and pictures were noticed during online proceedings on December 9.

Vineetha P. Shetty, judicial officer, KSAT has filed a complaint with the Central division cybercrime police stating that an unknown person logged into the videoconferencing and uploaded objectionable content to disrupt the proceedings. The proceedings were suspended, and the advocates and parties were asked to appear in person until the videoconference proceedings are restored .

Based on the complaint, police have registered a case under Section 67 (publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form) of the IT Act.

On December 5, the High Court of Karnataka suspended videoconferencing at all its Benches after unknown persons uploaded objectionable content during videoconference proceedings. Investigation traced an unauthorized access from Bangladesh.

FB account hacked
In a separate incident, a police inspector attached to the State Reserve Police complained to the Central division cybercrime police that his Facebook account was hacked to upload obscene content.

Nisar Ahammad Sarawad, in his complaint, said that he had opened the FB account in 2018, but stopped using it. However, someone hacked into his account to upload objectionable contents. The incident came to light when some of his friends checked his profile and informed him.

The police have registered a case under Section 66 (sending offensive messages through communication service) of the IT Act.

Website of learning platform for NEET aspirants hacked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The south-division cybercrime police have registered a case against an unknown person for hacking the website of an online learning platform for NEET students with curated learning modules and stealing the study material to demand ransom.

Case registered
Based on a complaint filed by the project manager of the company, the police on Saturday registered a case under the IT Act and are trying to track down the accused .

Swathi K.V., in her complaint, said the accused had hacked their website earlier in September and shared the question paper modules and videos on his two websites.

He had even offered to sell the study material for ₹2,642.

The accused on November 12 sent a message to the Telegram account of the company demanding ₹5 lakh worth of crypto-currency to be transferred to his wallet ID and threatened to release the study material of the company publicly.

The accused also shared his account number with a nationalised bank in the name of Yash Raj asking the candidates to transfer the money to get the study material, Ms. Swathi said in her complaint.

Two more cases related to AEPS scam reported

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two more cases related to the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) have been reported in the north-division cybercrime police station on Saturday.

A private firm employee from Rajajinagar complained to the police that ₹10,000 had been withdrawn from his account using AEPS on Friday. Meanwhile, a homemaker from Laggere said that ₹3,800 had been withdrawn from her account on November 20 using AEPS. "I have not shared my PIN or bank details with anyone," she told the police.

The northeast cybercrime police had arrested two men from Bihar running an AEPS racket, recently. The arrested accused Mohammed Parvez Ezdani Ansari, 26, and Abuzar Shamim Akthar were working as data entry operators and had stolen the victims' biometric details from the government's Kaveri 2.0 portal (Department of Stamps and Registration) to steal the money through the micro ATM system.

'40% commission': HC stays proceedings till govt. explains why enquiry was not done in 30 days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed further proceedings before a one-man commission of enquiry, which is probing the allegation of "40% commission" in the award of contracts under the previous BJP government, till the State government explains why the enquiry was not completed within one month as was notified.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on December 7 on the petition filed by Nikshep Infra Projects and 43 other firms and individual contractors.

The petitioner contractors have challenged the government's August 5, 2023, notification of setting up the special investigation cell to examine the allegation of "40% commission" in the contracts of civil works awarded from 2019-20 to 2022-23. The government had set up the commission of enquiry headed by H.N. Nagamohan Das, a retired HC judge.

Completion certificate
It was argued on behalf of the petitioners that the change in government had led to the scrutiny of all the works that have taken place earlier and to which works, the completion certificates are already issued by the competent authorities. The petitioner contractors have also complained about the hardship faced by them due to non-payment of the amount due to them despite the grant of the completion certificate, which certifies satisfaction with the works carried out.

The petitioners have also informed the court that a special investigating cell was set up on August 5 with a specific direction to conclude the enquiry in 30 days and a report be submitted. However, even after four months of the setting up of the special cell, nothing has happened except the constitution of a one-man enquiry commission under the provisions of the Commissions of Enquiry Act, 1952, on August 25, 2023. On noticing non-completion of the enquiry in a month, the court said there would be an interim order of stay for further proceedings of the enquiry commission until the government explained why the enquiry was not completed within one year. The court has adjourned till December 19.

SWR cancels some trains partially

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

South Western Railway and Eastern Railway have notified partial cancellations, diversions of trains due to various reasons. FILE PHOTO

South Western Railway has decided to partially cancel some trains due to rolling corridor blocks programme in the Hubballi Division.

Train No 17333 Miraj-Castle Rock Express will be partially cancelled till January 31, 2024 between Londa and Castle Rock. Accordingly, the train will be short terminated at Londa, skipping stoppage at Tinai Ghat and Castle Rock.

Eastern Railway has notified the diversion of some trains due to pre-non-interlocking and non-interlocking works at Chatra and Murarai stations in the Khana-Rampurhat-Gumani section of Howrah Division as follows: Train No 12509 Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru-Guwahati Superfast Express leaving SMVT Bengaluru on December 13, 14 and 15 will be diverted to run via Kharagpur, Andul, Howrah, Bandel, Katwa, Azimganj and New Farakka stations. Train No 12510 Guwahati-Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru Superfast Express leaving Guwahati on December 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 19 will be diverted to run via New Farakka, Azimganj, Katwa, Bandel, Howrah, Andul and Kharagpur stations.

Train No 15227 Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru-Muzaffarpur Superfast Express leaving SMVT Bengaluru on December 14 will be diverted to run via Kharagpur, Andul, Howrah, Bandel, Katwa, Azimganj and New Farakka stations.

Train No 15228 Muzaffarpur-Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru Superfast Express leaving Muzaffarpur on December 11 and 18 will be diverted to run via New Farakka, Azimganj, Katwa, Bandel, Howrah, Andul and Kharagpur stations.

Train No 22502 New Tinsukia-Sir M. Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru Superfast Express leaving New Tinsukia on December 15 will be diverted.

Woman stabbed to death by distant relative

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A homemaker was stabbed to death allegedly by her distant relative in J.J. Nagar on Sunday.

The deceased, Parveen Taj, was related to the accused Junaid but had stopped talking to him a few days ago over a trivial row. According to the police, Junaid barged into her house on Sunday night and stabbed her before fleeing. Parveen was rushed to Victoria Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

The police have registered a case of murder against Junaid.

Woman accused of attacking cattle with acid

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 13 cattle sustained burn injuries on their back and other body parts

In a shocking incident, an elderly woman has been accused of torturing cattle by pouring acid to stop them from venturing into her property in Guni Agrahara in Soladevanahalli on Monday.

Owners of the cattle and residents staged a protest after they caught her red-handed in the act.

The accused woman allegedly created a ruckus and had a verbal duel with the residents accusing them of harassing her by letting the cattle into her area. As many as 13 cattle sustained burn injuries on their back and other body parts.

Questioning
The residents complained to the police demanding necessary action against the woman. The police went to her house and questioned her for which the woman complained that the cattle were creating nuisance by venturing into her area.

From Page One

Woman assaulted after son elopes with girl

Lagamanna, the father added, "We also want the boy and girl to get protection. Some of the accused are repeat offenders. They are facing the charge of murdering a GP member. They were on bail when they attacked my wife. The government should ensure that they do not get bail. The trial should be conducted in a fair manner and the accused should get life sentence." He claimed that neither he nor his wife knew about the relationship between their son and the girl. "If we knew, we would have resolved the issue," he said.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara has instructed the Belagavi police commissioner to take strict action against the accused. In a social media post, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah expressed his anguish. "This is an inhuman act. Our government will not tolerate such insults to women. Belagavi police have already taken strict action and have arrested some accused. We will ensure that the victim and her family get justice," he said.

El Niño: Warm winter awaits Bengalureans

The maximum temperature at Kempegowda International Airport was 27.7°C, while the minimum temperature was not available. KIA also recorded a relative humidity of 63%. The Met Department's forecast for the next 36 hours is partly cloudy sky, with mist very likely during early morning hours in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 29 and 18°C respectively.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated December 12, we have a story on artist Paul Fernandes's book *The Great Bangalore Morph: From Kempegowda to Covid,* and his exhibition 'Bangalore Then and Now'. The exhibition and book take one on a journey through swathes of time, with glimpses of the city's past, present, and possible future.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (December 12, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- Can Bihar increase its reservation pool? **bit.ly/reservationfifty**
- Origin mystery of mummified baboons finally cracked **bit.ly/egyptbaboonsorigin**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Central Government pensioners as of March 2023

67.95 in lakh. The number of civil and defence pensioners stood at close to 11.42 lakh and over 33.87 lakh, respectively, as per data compiled by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare. PTI

GST evasions detected against lottery distributors till Nov.

345 in ₹ crore. A total of 12 cases of GST evasion were detected against lottery distributors since July 2017, the Minister of State for Finance informed the Lok Sabha. He added that ₹622 crore were recovered from lottery distributors. PTI

Amount invested by EPFO in ETFs in April-October

27,105 in ₹ crore. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had invested ₹53,081 crore in exchange-traded funds (ETFs) during the 2022-23 fiscal, higher than the ₹43,568 crore in 2021-22. PTI

Worth of loans given to street vendors under PM SVANidhi

9,790 in ₹ crore. The PM SVANidhi scheme was launched during the pandemic as a micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors. It provides collateral-free working capital loans up to ₹50,000. PTI

Amount spent by India on copper imports in 2022-23

27,131 in ₹ crore. Amount spent on copper imports increased from ₹21,985 crore a year earlier, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi told the Rajya Sabha. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Can Bihar increase its reservation pool?

What has the Supreme Court said about reservation being 'adequate' and not 'proportionate'? Are there other States which do not adhere to the 50% limit on reservation? What will be the justification offered by the Bihar government for increasing the quantum of reservation?

EXPLAINER

Shivani Vij
Shrutanjaya Bhardwaj

Tough battle: Supporters of Bihar Janata Dal (U) Most Backward Cell celebrate after the release of the Caste Census, in Patna on October 4. ANI

The story so far:

On November 17, the Governor of Bihar approved two laws increasing the quantum of reservations in jobs and education in the State to 75%, including 20% for Scheduled Castes, 2% for Scheduled Tribes, 18% for Other Backward Classes, and 25% for Extremely Backward Classes, and 10% for economically weaker sections (EWS). The two laws have once again sparked debate around the permissible limits of reservations in India, particularly in view of the "50%" limit prescribed by the Supreme Court of India in the Mandal Commission case (*Indra Sawhney*, 1992), as well as the court's emphasis on "adequate" representation of the oppressed classes as opposed to "proportionate representation".

What is the 50% rule?

The Supreme Court has historically maintained that reservations, whether in jobs or education, should not exceed 50% of the total seats/posts. In 1963, a seven judge bench in *M.R. Balaji* explained that reservations were in the nature of an "exception" or "special provision" under our constitutional scheme. Therefore, they cannot be provided for more than 50% of the posts or seats. Though this understanding of reservations changed in 1976 – with it being recognised that reservations are a facet of equality rather than an exception to it – the 50% limit has remained unaltered.

A nine judge bench in the Mandal commission case in 1990 reaffirmed the 50% limit and held that it is a binding rule, and not merely a matter of prudence. However, it is not a rule without exceptions. A State can exceed the limit in exceptional circumstances, that is, to provide reservations to communities which hail from far flung areas of the country and have been kept out of the mainstream of the society. This is not a geographical test but a social one. Besides, last year, the Supreme Court upheld the 103rd Constitutional Amendment which provides for 10% additional reservations to the EWS. This means, for the time being, that the 50% limit applies only to non-EWS reservations, and States are permitted to reserve a total of 60% of the seats/posts including EWS reservations.

What do laws in Bihar state?

In January 2023, the Bihar government announced a caste based census/survey to be conducted across the State. The results of this Census were announced in October. Shortly thereafter, the two Bills (now laws) where introduced in the Legislative Assembly.

Two striking aspects of these laws deserve to be noticed. The first is the obvious breach of the 50% (now 60%) ceiling limit. If and when the laws are challenged in court, the government of Bihar will have to prove that there case falls within the exception carved out in the Mandal Commission case. That is, the communities to whom reservations have been granted hail from far flung areas or have been kept out of the social mainstream. The second is the justification offered by the State government for this breach. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressly stated on the floor of the House that the intent is to increase the quantum of reservations in view of the results of the caste Census. However, the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the State cannot fix the quantum of reservation simply in proportion to the population of the reserved classes. This is because the only valid aim behind reservations is to secure "adequate" representation of the depressed classes, which is different from "proportionate" representation. Therefore, one major challenge before the State government will be to defend the motive behind the move.

Bihar is not the first to cross the line. Other States that have already surpassed the 50% limit, even excluding the EWS quota, are Chhattisgarh (72%), Tamil Nadu (69%, under a 1994 Act protected under the ninth Schedule of the Constitution), and several north-eastern States including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland (80% each). Lakshadweep has a whopping 100% reservations for Scheduled Tribes. Previous attempts by Maharashtra and Rajasthan have been struck down by the courts.

What next?

The Bihar Government appears to be following the footsteps of other States that have already breached the 50% ceiling limit. It seems inevitable that the validity of the two Bihar laws will be carried to the Supreme Court, and the Court will be urged to reconsider the 50% ceiling limit entirely. It remains to be seen whether the court will be inclined to do so.

Shivani Vij and Shrutanjaya Bhardwaj are advocates practising before the Supreme Court of India.

THE GIST

- On November 17, the Governor of Bihar approved two laws increasing the quantum of reservations in jobs and education in the State to 75%, including 20% for Scheduled Castes, 2% for Scheduled Tribes, 18% for Other Backward Classes, and 25% for Extremely Backward Classes, and 10% for economically weaker sections.
- The Supreme Court has historically maintained that reservations, whether in jobs or education, should not exceed 50% of the total seats/posts.
- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressly stated on the floor of the House that the intent is to increase the quantum of reservations in view of the results of the caste Census.

What are FSB's concerns about crypto asset intermediaries?

What are multi-function crypto-asset intermediaries? What does the report say about risk management?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

Published last month, the international Financial Stability Board (FSB)'s latest report on crypto-asset intermediaries sought measures to enhance cross-border cooperation and information sharing among local authorities. This is to effectively regulate and address gaps in multi-function crypto-asset intermediaries (MCIs) operating globally. Specifically referring to the FTX collapse in November 2022, it highlights potential risks associated with MCIs that combine different activities within the platform.

How does the report define MCIs?

The report defines MCIs as individual firms, or groups of affiliated firms that offer a range of crypto-based services, products and functions which primarily revolve around operating of the trading platform. Examples include Binance, Bitfinex and Coinbase. In the traditional financial landscape, the functions are provided by separate entities, instead of the same entity. This prevents conflict of interest and promotes market integrity, investor protection and financial stability.

The primary source of revenue for these platforms are the transaction fees generated from trading-related activities, the traded security here being self-issued crypto assets. Trades from alternative platforms may also indirectly drive additional demand for other services offered by the platform. These may include prepaid debit cards and lending, among other services. This shows that the aspirations of MCIs extend beyond just trading to becoming a "one-stop shop" for crypto-based services.

FSB's report observes that the magnitude of these revenue sources is unclear because of the limited publicly disclosed information.

What about transparency?

The report observes that most MCIs are not transparent about their corporate structure. Further, they are privately held. Even if they disclose information, the report observes, it is typically for a small part of their business, specific to a jurisdiction. Much of the available information has surfaced through press coverage, court filings and regulatory actions and not public disclosures. The watchdog observed that MCIs failed to create a "meaningful separation" between potentially conflicting business lines, and provide clear account of transactions and activities or audit practices, among other things. The report suggests this could be intentional, to limit understanding of their vulnerabilities, economic models and activities – thus, to also evade regulatory oversight. Overall, this translates to lowered or non-existent oversight parameters for management of risk and governance frameworks.

Poor risk management, the report says, "may make it easier for insiders to engage in misconduct that magnifies MCI vulnerabilities." The lack of transparency could also mean that risks from lack of effective governance or lack of profitability of the business model would be hidden until the negative shocks fully materialise. In fact, in June this year, the U.S. SEC alleged that Binance misled investors about their risk controls and inflated trading volumes.

What about spillovers?

The report observes that, based on available evidence, the threat to global financial stability and to the real economy from the failure of an MCI is presently "limited." However, recent experience about failure or closure of "crypto-asset-friendly" banks reveal the prevalence of concentrated deposit exposures to firms whose business models rely in some form on crypto assets. In March this year, Silvergate Bank had to wind down its operations and voluntarily liquidate. This was after the FTX collapse and an ensuing loss of confidence (in crypto-assets) that resulted in a 'run-off' (investors moving away from riskier to safer assets).

THE GIST

- Published last month, the Financial Stability Board (FSB)'s latest report on crypto-asset intermediaries sought measures to enhance cross-border cooperation and information sharing among local authorities.
- Multi-function crypto-asset intermediaries are individual firms, or groups of affiliated firms that offer a range of crypto-based services, products and functions which primarily revolve around operating of the trading platform.
- Poor risk management, the report says, "may make it easier for insiders to engage in misconduct that magnifies MCI vulnerabilities."

INBRIEF

Govt. to consider suggestion to install Leelavathi's statue

The State government on Monday assured the Legislative Assembly of considering the suggestion by the Opposition to install a statue of veteran actor Leelavathi on the premises of the Primary Health Centre built by her on Bengaluru city outskirts. Speaking on the obituary motion in the Assembly to pay tributes to the actress, who died last week, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar welcomed the suggestion by Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, who said that installing her statue on the premises of the hospital would go a long way in inspiring others to take up similar philanthropic activity.

The Deputy Chief Minister described her as a person who was rich in benevolence and compassion towards not just humans but also animals. This was evident with the fact that she had built a veterinary clinic too, he said.

Mr. Ashok described her as a multilingual and talented actress who had taken to social service. Speaker U.T. Khader, too, paid rich tributes to the late actor.

Price fixed for uniforms too low, complains Oppn. member

The State government has fixed a procurement price of ₹106 to ₹315 for uniforms of schoolchildren based on their age. One cannot even buy a decent handkerchief for this price, N. Ravikumar, BJP member, said in the Legislative Council on Monday.

Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, said that the procurement of stitched uniforms was being done through open tender and the government would pay extra if the tender document so demands.

Mr. Bangarappa said that the Basavaraj Bommai government had failed to call for tenders to supply bicycles to students and assured that bicycles would be supplied in the next academic year. There is no dearth of funds for the welfare of students, he said.

Chaos in Assembly as BJP demands sacking of Zameer

The Opposition staged a vociferous dharna seeking the Minister's dismissal for his remarks on the Speaker's chair

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan speaking in the Assembly, and (right) BJP legislators staging a protest in the well of the House at the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chaos prevailed in the Legislative Assembly throughout the day's session on Monday as the combined Opposition BJP and JD(S) staged a vociferous dharna demanding that Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan should be sacked for his remarks on the Speaker's chair.

When Mr. Zameer stood up to reply to the House on the queries related to his department during the Question Hour, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok objected to the Minister being allowed to participate in transaction of official business of the legislature. He alleged that the Minister had brought disgrace to the Speaker's chair and also tried to strain the Hindu-Muslim communal harmony through his reported remarks during the Telangana poll campaign that "all the BJP MLAs have to bow their head in the Karnataka Assembly before the Muslim speaker who was appointed by the Congress government."

The BJP members led by Mr. Ashok maintained that the respect being paid by all the MLAs was towards the chair of the Speaker irrespective of the community they belonged to. But Mr. Zameer had brought disrespect to such a tradition associated with the Speaker's chair through his remarks which were aimed at political gains, Mr. Ashok alleged and demanded that the Minister should be immediately sacked.

The BJP members trouped into the well of the House and began a dharna. Though Speaker U.T. Khader and senior Minister Krishna Byre Gowda requested the protesting members to follow the House rules and procedures by submitting a notice to raise the issue, the Opposition members continued with their dharna. They even started shouting slogans against Mr. Zameer and the Congress, accusing both of them of being communal in their approach.

Angered by this, Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda launched a counter attack by maintaining that Mr. Khan had not said anything that would bring disrepute to the Speaker's chair. Similarly, the Speaker urged the protesting members to drop their protest if they were interested in discussion on drought gripping the State and issues related to North Karnataka. When the protesting members refused to heed, the Speaker continued with the entire official business of the House as per the day's agenda including Question Hour and consideration of Bills and government's reply to discussion on drought even as the Opposition members continued their dharna in the well of the House.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who attended the post-lunch session, accused the BJP members of disrespecting the Constitution by disobeying rules and procedures. Urging the protesting members to submit a notice to the Speaker seeking permission to raise the issue, he said the government was ready to reply to them.

However, the protesting members did not pay heed to his suggestion and continued their protest till late in the evening when the session was adjourned.

'Portraits acceptable to all should be displayed in legislature'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Urging for more portraits, including that of the first Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi -- to be displayed in the Legislative Assembly hall at Suvarna Soudha here, Congress legislator Basavaraj Rayaraddi said that "certain changes" are required in the portraits that are already mounted in the hall.

"The portraits that are acceptable to all should be put up. Discuss the matter in Business Advisory Committee or form a House committee, if necessary. The portraits are hung in Parliament based on the recommendation of a committee," the former Minister has written to Speaker U.T. Khader. He has said that the portrait of Basavanna that is currently there has to be replaced with a portrait of the social reformer with a crown that he wore as the Prime Minister. Taking exception to the location of the Mahatma Gandhi portrait, he has said it has to be put in the same row as that of Basavanna since Gandhi's portrait was in the lower row.

Govt. college students to get free spoken English coaching

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The government will enter into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Wadhwani Foundation to teach free spoken English to government college students, Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar told the Legislative Council on Monday.

Replying to a debate on National Education Policy-2020 under Rule 330, the Minister said that the training in spoken English will be offered to empower students to be well-equipped on a par with others in the competitive era. The challenge in higher education now is to offer students job oriented courses, he said, adding that the State government is committed to introduce State Education Policy (SEP) once it is ready.

No confusion

The Congress had also promised the same in its manifesto ahead of Assembly elections. The government will introduce the SEP by debating it, assessing the financial implications once the commission set up to form the policy submits it to the government. Till then, there need not be any confusion. The Minister said that the last BJP government implemented the NEP-2020 in a hurry without making any preparations to take the credit for becoming the first to introduce the same. "It should have had the roadmap before introducing it," he said. The government should have assessed whether the educational institutes have infrastructure facilities to offer the open electives, he said, adding that the feasibility factors should have been studied.

Budgetary allocation

Mr. Sudhakar said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been apprised of the need to hike the budgetary allocation for higher education and the government will do it from the next financial year.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said the government will open 3,000 Karnataka Public Schools in the next three years.

Amidst drought, Centre yet to approve increasing man-days under MGNREGA

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Stating that ₹895 crore is available with the district administration to undertake drought relief, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Monday said that the Centre has not approved increase of man-days under MGNREGA that could stem rural migration.

"We have already reached 10.9 crore man-days out of 13 crore this year. It is not sufficient and we have asked the Centre to increase the man-days from 100 to 150 days for individuals and a total of 16 crore man-days. Though it would help in arresting rural migration, the Centre has not said anything yet," the Revenue Minister told the Legislative Assembly.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda during the Assembly session. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Amidst a protest by the Opposition, which remained in the well raising slogans, that interrupted his response on the discussion on drought, Mr. Gowda said that the government was ahead of other States that are drought-hit in submitting memorandum to the Centre.

"Despite the Centre's team visiting the State, the Centre has not come to our rescue. If you have guts, get us an appointment from the Centre. We have not been given appointment despite multiple reminders," he said, turning the tables on the Bharatiya Janata Party.

"The preparation is such that 6,287 villages and 914 urban wards have been identified as vulnerable places in the State. There is no problem, but we have to be ready for future instead of scrambling for solution when the problem arises," the Minister said.

Instruction to banks

He also said that the government has directed the State-level bankers committee to restructure the loan and not harass farmers.

Mr. Gowda also said that while the data with State shows that 70% of farmers are small and marginal, the data with Centre shows 44%.

"We have sent the Aadhaar linked data of farmers to the Centre. The Centre is not ready to accept our claim," the Minister said.

Opposition demands farm loan waiver

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Opposition members in the Legislative Council on Monday urged the State government to waive farm loans in view of drought and announce ₹ 10,000 crore for drought-relief operations.

Participating in the debate over drought after moving the privilege motion, the Opposition members said that farmers are ending their lives and many are migrating to urban areas.

Drought relief

N. Ravi Kumar of the BJP said that the government has not credited ₹2,000 as drought relief it had announced to farmers. He questioned the government withdrawing ₹4,000 meant for farmers under the Krishi Samman scheme announced by the previous BJP government.

Tax

Marithibbe Gowda of the Janata Dal (Secular) said that the government should also waive revenue and water tax and ensure that those migrating from rural areas got daily wages in villages. It should provide three-phase power supply to farmers during day time and not at night.

Assembly adopts five Bills

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

This includes one to hike stamp duty; four bills were adopted without any discussion

The Legislative Assembly adopted five Bills, including the Karnataka Stamps (Amendment) Bill, amidst din created by a dharna by the combined Opposition members.

Of them, four Bills were adopted without any discussion.

On Monday, the Opposition BJP and JD(S) members went to the well of the House demanding sacking of Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed over his remarks related to the Speaker's chair.

When they refused to get back to their seats, Speaker U.T. Khader proceeded with the agenda of taking up Bills for consideration.

More revenue

The Karnataka Stamps (Amendment) Bill -- that proposes to increase the rate of stamp duty on various documents -- was adopted by the House. The Bill will bring the rate of stamp duty in Karnataka on a par with other States, besides seeking to bring in financial accountability. The Bill is expected to bring an additional revenue of over ₹1,500 crore a year.

The GST Bill, which seeks to replace an ordinance in this regard, proposes to incorporate certain changes that have been effected due to amending of the Central GST (Amendment) Act 2023.

Rural service

The Karnataka Compulsory Service by Candidates Completed Medical Courses (Amendment) Bill, which was adopted by the House, seeks to replace an Ordinance. The Bill exempts MBBS graduates from compulsory rural service upon their selection for Central or State governments jobs.

Replying on behalf of Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the House that the government would ensure that medical services in rural areas are not affected due to the provisions of this Bill.

The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, which too was adopted by the House, seeks to replace an Ordinance. This was brought about to comply with the Karnataka High Court's direction to prescribe population limit for the wards of taluk and zilla panchayats to ensure that elections were conducted on time for them.

Pre-poll promise

The House adopted the Karavali Development Board Bill which would prepare an annual plan for programmes and projects for development of the coastal area of Karnataka. The Bill was brought in to implement the pre-poll promise of the Congress.

Embarrassed BJP to hold meeting every day

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Opposition BJP, which suffered an embarrassment in the Assembly last week due to lack of floor co-ordination among its members on whether to boycott or stage a dharna, has now taken some measures to avoid a repeat.

The party has introduced a system of holding a meeting of its senior and prominent members on a daily basis before commencement of the session to decide its legislature floor plan. About 15 senior members of the party, including former Ministers S. Suresh Kumar and State president B.Y. Vijayendra, participated in the co-ordination meeting convened by Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok on Monday.

It is learnt that the BJP Central leadership too had intervened to make some of the disgruntled MLAs fall in line when it comes to floor co-ordination. Lack of floor co-ordination among BJP members had come out in the open on December 7 when some of its members walked out with Mr. Ashok while others wanted to stage a dharna in the well of the House.

A party senior leader blamed such a lack of co-ordination on the delay in appointment of party whip and Deputy Leader of Opposition, besides disgruntlement among some legislators. Though the BJP is set to hold its legislature party meeting in Belagavi on December 12, there is no clarity on whether the appointment would be finalised at the meeting.

App-based beat system to protect govt. land from encroachment

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Assembly that Karnataka is set to introduce a mobile app-based beat system to protect government land from encroachment.

Replying to Congress member Vinay Kulkarni during the Question Hour on Monday, the Minister said as per the proposed system, the documents and data related to government land in all the taluks would be uploaded into the app. Village accountants are mandated to visit all government land in their jurisdiction once in three months to check encroachment. In case of an encroachment, they are required to immediately upload details on the mobile app. Once the encroachment details are uploaded, the tahsildar is required to take up further action within 15 days. The government would take disciplinary action against the tahsildar if he fails to act within the stipulated time, the Minister said.

Pointing out that the app would be GPS-enabled, he said it would make it possible to monitor whether the Village Accountants physically visited the government land.

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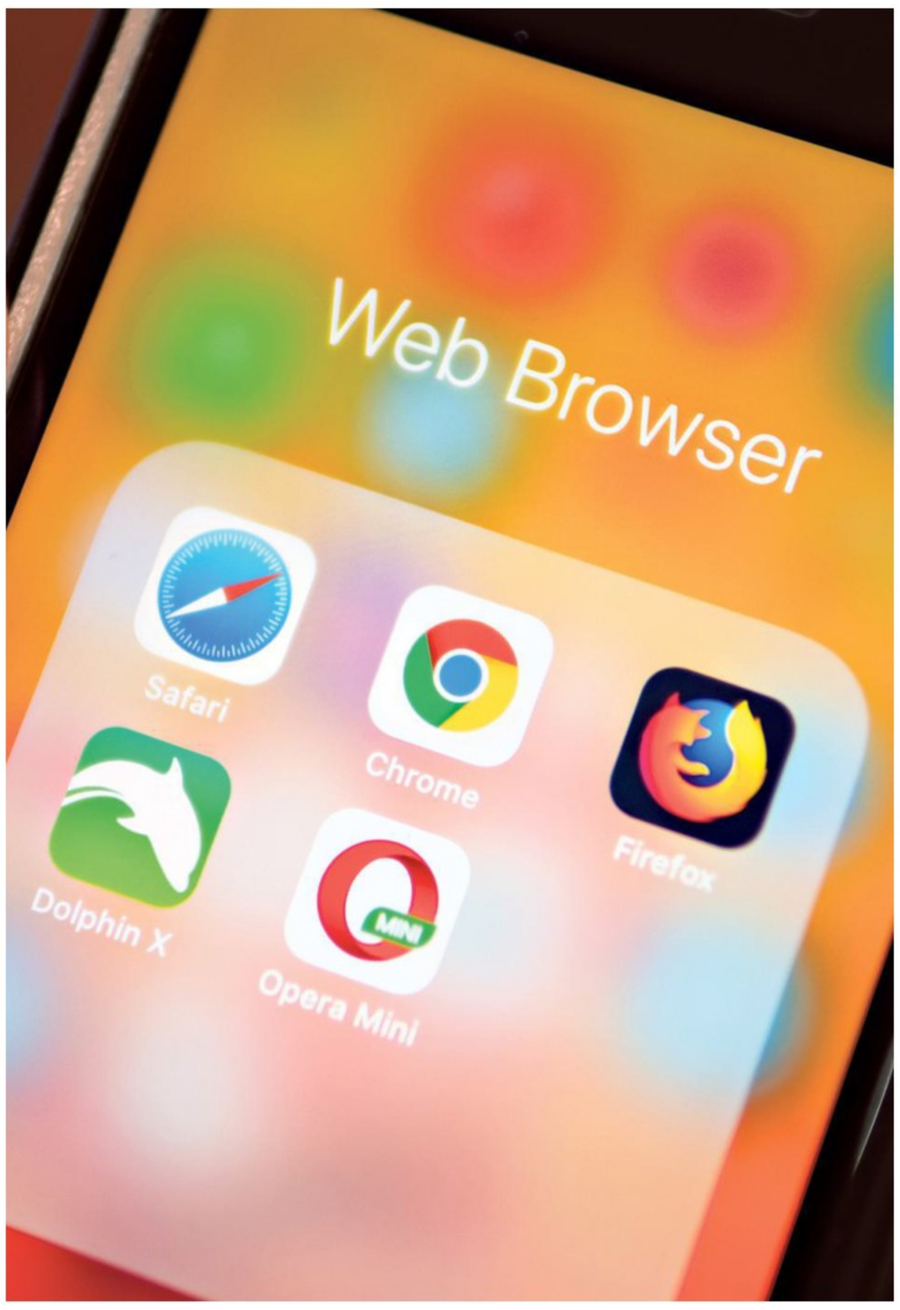
M.P. Madhyam/112741/2023 **I/C SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**

BUILDING BLOCKS

Understanding web browsers: how do they work?

Web browsers translate code into the dynamic web pages that form the backbone of our online experiences. Modern browsers have multiple core components, each of which is a complex technology in itself

Varun Vohra



GETTY IMAGES

Web browsers are our digital passports to the vast universe of the internet. Their simplicity is deceptive as beneath their user-friendly interfaces lies a world of intricate processes that transform clicks into the web pages we interact with every day.

What are web browsers?

Fundamentally, the browser is an application that people use to send and receive messages via the internet. In other words, the browser is a program that runs on your device, with its purpose being to fetch information in different formats from the internet and show it on the device. It also does the reverse, receiving your input (say, a click), translating it to code, and transmitting it to some other machine across the internet.

How were browsers born?

In the early 1990s, the internet was a fledgling entity, largely text-based and navigated through little pieces of code typed out and transmitted to machines somewhere else, waiting for them to respond. Then, in 1990, the English computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee introduced the concept of the World Wide Web, and with it came the first web browser, also named 'WorldWideWeb'. It didn't just display web pages; it also allowed users to edit them.

The next watershed moment was the debut of the Mosaic browser in 1993. Developed by a team at the U.S. National Center for Supercomputing Applications, it introduced the concept of displaying images alongside text, revolutionising the way we interacted with the web. This is when the internet became visually engaging. Netscape Navigator burst onto the scene a year later and rapidly became the most popular browser of its time. It brought feature innovations like bookmarks and a user-friendly URL bar, simplifying navigation and making the web more accessible.

Then, the late 1990s witnessed a fierce battle among browser developers – a period dubbed the 'Browser Wars'. Microsoft's Internet Explorer (IE) and Netscape Navigator were the primary contenders. This competition spurred rapid innovation, with each browser striving to outperform the other in terms of speed, features, and compatibility. By 2000, IE had emerged as the dominant browser, due in large part to its integration with the Windows operating system. But this period of monopoly also caused development and innovation to stagnate.

This monotony was broken in 2004 or 2005, in the next turning point in the history of browsers: the emergence of Mozilla Firefox. Developed by a community of volunteers and based on open-source principles, Firefox introduced ground-breaking new features like tabbed browsing and pop-up blocking, and also allowed users to 'extend' their personal browsers with add-ons. Firefox's arrival reinvigorated competition and set new standards for user-friendly browsing.

In 2008, Google launched Chrome, which swiftly gained in popularity for its speed and minimalist design. Like browsers past, Chrome's success also revitalised the browser market and encouraged innovation across the board. Other browsers, like Mozilla Firefox, Apple's Safari, and Microsoft Edge (as a successor to Internet Explorer) also evolved, providing users with a range of choices tailored to their preferences.

What is inside a browser?

Modern web browsers have multiple core components, each of which is a complex technology in itself. They also rely on several others, plus standards that say how the internet should work.

First is the request and response component. When you enter a website's address (in the form of the Uniform Resource Locator, or URL) into your browser's address bar or when you click a link, you set in motion a sequence of digital communication. The browser sends a request to a server, asking for the contents of the specific web page you're interested in. This request travels through a network of servers, like dispatching a letter through a series of post offices. Upon reaching the server, the request is received and processed. The server then formulates a response containing the information (or data) required to construct the web page. This response embarks on its journey back to your browser, carrying the digital blueprint for the page you requested.

Second is deconstructing the response. The response from the server is not a singular entity. Instead, it is an amalgam of various files. Typically, these files have information encoded in three languages: HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Each set of information plays a pivotal role in shaping the final presentation of the web page. HTML, short for Hypertext Markup Language, provides the architectural blueprint of a webpage. Similar to the skeletal framework of a building, made with iron bars, bricks, and cement, HTML defines the structure of the page, outlining elements like headings, paragraphs, images, and links. As the cornerstone of web content, HTML is the foundation on which browsers construct the visual layout.

Imagine CSS, or Cascading Style Sheets, to be the interior designer of the digital world. This information imparts style and aesthetics to the HTML structure by controlling attributes like colour schemes, fonts, spacing, and positioning. CSS ensures that the webpage comes into its unique visual identity. JavaScript is the dynamic engine, making web pages interactive and responsive. Analogous to the electrical system in a building, JavaScript breathes life into static content. It allows interactive elements like pop-ups, forms, animations, and real-time updates, creating an engaging user experience. It also allows the browser to run some scripts and perform simple tasks on a page instead of waiting to receive instructions from a distant server.

Then there is rendering – with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript in hand, a browser begins the process of rendering. This involves deciphering the HTML to understand the structural arrangement, applying CSS for stylistic finesse, and executing JavaScript to infuse interactivity (One can deconstruct the final result on a webpage by right-clicking on the page and selecting 'Inspect'). This process is remarkably swift, assembling the final webpage and presenting it to the user in a cohesive and visually appealing manner in much less than a second, depending on the amount of data. Rendering engines are in themselves a key piece of technology that enable screens to display graphics.

Fourth component is managing data. Browsers serve as adept custodians of your digital footprint, so they also implement instruments like cookies and cache to enhance your online experience. Cookies are small snippets of data stored on your computer by websites you visit. Think of them as digital post-it notes. They retain information such as login status, site preferences, and shopping cart contents. This allows you to navigate seamlessly, without having to re-login to a site when you close and reopen it in a short span of time. Comparable to short-term memory, the cache is a repository of frequently accessed files. When you revisit a webpage, the browser checks its cache to see if it already has a copy of the required files. If so, it retrieves them from the cache rather than re-downloading them from the server. This accelerates page loading time and conserves bandwidth.

And finally, we have security. Web browsers are sentinels that guard your digital sanctuary. They use an array of security measures to protect your data as they fly between your computer to various servers, via the internet, and even when they're stored on your computer itself. They do this by using encryption protocols, such as HTTPS, to create secure 'tunnels' for data exchange shielding the information from prying eyes. Browsers also use warning systems to alert you about potentially malicious websites, preventing inadvertent exposure to threats.

What next for browsing?

As technology hurtles forward, web browsers evolve in tandem. They are embracing cutting-edge technologies like WebAssembly, a format that enables near-native performance within the browser environment. Support for virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) experiences is also on the horizon, promising immersive online interactions. Additionally, privacy features are being bolstered, providing users with greater control over their digital footprint.

In sum, web browsers are the unsung heroes of our digital endeavours, translating code into the dynamic web pages that form the backbone of our online experiences. By unravelling the intricate tapestry of processes that underlie their operation, we gain a newfound appreciation for the seamless magic they conjure with every click.

The next time you open your browser, remember that behind the scenes, a symphony of digital choreography is unfolding to bring you the online world to your fingertips. Happy browsing!

Varun Vohra is a co-founder of Vaaree.com, a curated marketplace for home products, and a developer and tech-entrepreneur.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. K. Venkataraman, SBI Zonal Office, Madurai, wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of lackadaisical."

"Lackadaisical means 'lacking vigour and determination, unenthusiastic'.

She gave a lackadaisical reply.

It also used to mean 'affected, given to airs and graces, feebly sentimental'.

He dislikes her lackadaisical behaviour.

'Lack' rhymes with 'back'. The second 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in India, 'ai' like the 'ai' in 'pain', the 'i' like the 'i' in bit, the last 'a' like the 'a' in India, 's' is pronounced 'z'. The stress is on the third syllable. Some don't pronounce the 'a' before the final 'l'. 'cal' is pronounced like the 'kl' in pickle. This is also acceptable."

"Ms P. Surekha, Ramnagar, Anantapur, wants to know how to use 'squalid'."

"Squalid means 'very dirty and unpleasant (especially because of neglect and poverty).

The government should do something about these squalid slums.

They are living in such squalid conditions.

'Squalid' also means 'morally degrading, wretched'.

This is a squalid tale of sex and violence.

'Qua' is pronounced like the 'qua' in quality and quantity. The 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'bit'."

"Mr. S.C. Rajagopalan, Gopala Menon Road, Kodambakkam, Madras, wants to know the meaning and pronunciation of 'internecine'."

"Internecine means 'causing destruction to both sides'.

Internecine quarrels seem to be the order of the day.

Internecine quarrels are quarrels that are 'mutually destructive'. The first 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'it', 'er' like the 'a' in India, the second 'e' like the 'ee' in feel, the second 'i' like the 'i' in fine. The final 'e' is silent. The stress is on the third syllable."

" Mrs. Priya Padmanabhan wants to know the pronunciation and meaning of the word 'coterie'"

" Coterie means 'a circle of persons sharing interests, select circle in society'.

The minister listens only to his coterie and not others.

The coterie around him is flattering him much of the time.

The 'o' in the word is pronounced like the 'o' in 'toe', the first 'e' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India' and 'i' to pronounced like the 'i' in 'it', the initial 'c' is pronounced 'k'. The final 'e' is silent. The stress is on the first syllable. The word is not used in a good sense these days."

"Mr D. J. Srinhrasa. APHB Colony, Tanuku, wants to know the meaning of 'sinews of war'."

"'Sinews of war' means the funds necessary for waging a war. It was Cicero who used this expression first. He said 'Nervos belli pecuniam' which means 'money makes the sinews of war'. Sinews means 'muscles, bodily strength'. Figuratively, it means 'resources'.

They talk about peace now as they don't have the sinews of war."

Published in The Hindu on May 8, 1990.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Rajiniknath turns 73 on December 12. A quiz on the icon simply called 'Superstar'

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Rajinikanth is the only Indian actor to have featured in the Central Board of Secondary Education's school syllabus. What was the lesson called?

QUESTION 2

Several Amitabh Bachchan blockbusters have been remade in Tamil with the Superstar in the lead. Which Amitabh flicks were remade as *Thee* and *Dharmathin Thalaiavan*?

QUESTION 3

Rajinikanth's brother-in-law's son is a famous music director. Name this young composer.

QUESTION 4

In *Petta*, Rajini's prison shirt number was 165. Why?

QUESTION 5

Name the 1993 film for which Rajinikanth wrote the script, that did not do well.

QUESTION 6

In his 100th film, directed by S.P. Muthuraman, Rajini played the role of which Hindu saint?

Visual question:

This is the Japanese poster for which Rajini film.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name this Indian cricketer, who represented India in Test cricket after being born in Afghanistan. **Ans: Salim Durani**

2. This cricketer was the first to take 10 wickets in first class cricket. **Ans: Subhash Gupte**

3. This person achieved a first for his sport as an 18 year old Indian in 1988. **Ans: Viswanathan Anand**

4. This social reformer, freedom fighter and journalist was popularly known as "Mahakavi". **Ans: Subramania Bharathi**

5. The only Indian to have won the Nishan-e-Imtiaz, Pakistan's highest civilian honour. **Ans: Dilip Kumar**

Visual: Name this person. **Ans: Pranab Mukherjee**

Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Prashant Kalbende| Akshay Kumar Khanna| Jyotsna Kaushik| M. Suresh Kumar

Word of the day

Allusive:
characterised by indirect references

Synonyms: touch, advert, allude

Usage: *She is a highly allusive poet.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/allusivepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əˈluːsɪv/, /əˈljuːsɪv/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

A changing Bengaluru through the eyes of Paul Fernandes

The Great Bangalore Morph: From Kempegowda to Covid by Paul Fernandes, co-authored with Chicku (Meena) Jayadeva, gives a glimpse of the changing face of the city

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

A potrait of the view of M.G. Road (Mahatma Gandhi Road) during the 1970's.

This is not a book of intense study or a very scholarly effort, it deals with history in a light-hearted way," says Bengaluru artist Paul Fernandes of *The Great Bangalore Morph: From Kempegowda to Covid*, which he has co-authored with Bengaluru-based writer Chicku (Meena) Jayadeva.

As part of the Unboxing BLR Habba, a show featuring drawings and illustrations depicting the rich history and essence of Bengaluru was unveiled on December 9, at the Bangalore International Centre (BIC). The exhibit, titled *Bangalore Then and Now*, serves as an extension of Paul's book.

Past and present

The exhibition and book take one on a journey through swathes of time, with glimpses of the city's past, present, and possible future. Starting from the story of Bengaluru's founding when it was under the governance of a Chieftain of the Yelahanka Prabhus, it is a journey through the city's many avatars - from a sleepy pensioner's paradise and garden city to a cosmopolitan wonderland of snazzy pubs with draft beer on tap, and through the 'IT boom', which made Bengaluru the poster child of successful globalisation.

The exhibition also shows how Bengaluru became India's fastest-growing city, expanding chaotically in all ways and directions; for better or for worse, followed by the takeover by a virulent virus - COVID-19.

Extended project

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Paul says that the COVID-19 pandemic was part of the morphing of Bengaluru, and easily got included in the book, "It started off with trying to record the change we saw in Bengaluru, through drawings. We came to the understanding that the book was complete, and suddenly we were plunged into the world of COVID-19. That's when I started drawing about what was happening around us, and Chicku started writing about it. And we suddenly realised that it was a continuation of the morphing of Bengaluru, so it got included well in the book".

Dewar's Bar.

St. Johns Medical College.

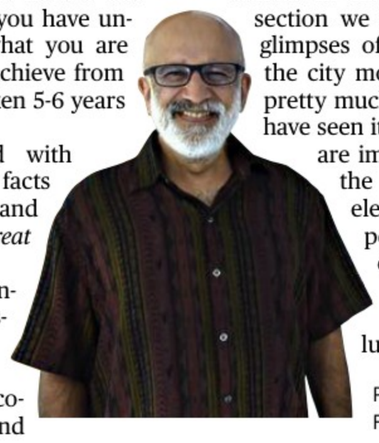
Lal Bagh glass house.

A work of Paul Fernandes displayed at BIC.

Paul says there was never a deadline to finish the book, but it took him close to six years to complete it, "There is never a time period you can specify when you are creating art. I remember Chicku would call me and say, 'do you think we could be ready by December?' And all I would ask 'Which December?'. So, it is a long project that can not have a deadline until you have understood what you are hoping to achieve from it. It has taken 5-6 years at least."

Peppered with interesting facts from now and then, *The Great Bangalore Morph* chronicles the historical, geographical, social, economic and cultural growth of the city. To make it easy to navigate, the authors break Bengaluru's history into three distinct periods: Days of Yore, More Familiar Times, and 2019: The Year Our World Changed.

"In *Days of Yore* we look at a very colourful, long and eventful history of the city in the thousand-plus years before independence. In the middle section we look at glimpses of life as the city morphed, pretty much as we have seen it. There are images of the first electricity pole that came to Asia in Bengaluru and what happened to it through time. And the final section is *2019: The Year Our World Changed*, the period in which COVID-19 hit Bengaluru and the rest of the world," he says.


Paul Fernandes

For the young

Paul's idea was to provide a very simple idea of Bengaluru's morphing over time, and not make it too heavy a book to read. "The book uses mild humour to sometimes look at a difficult subject. My interest is to take this book to young people in a very simple and entertaining manner and not ask them to read deeply, because these days people do not have time to read deeply," Paul added.

Working with Chicku Jayadeva was rewarding, says Paul. "She is able to take a very raw thought, and really give it all the time and strength it needs to become a full thought. It is wonderful working with her, she gives it all the research and information the idea wants before it becomes ready to draw. That is her skill," he says.

The book *The Great Bangalore Morph: From Kempegowda to Covid* is priced at ₹1,800 and is available on apaulogy.com and at the aPaulogy Gallery in Richards Town. The book is also available for sale at the exhibition in BIC, Domlur.

'Bangalore Then and Now' is an exhibition of drawings and llustrations by Paul Fernandes at Bangalore International Centre.

Squash tournament in the city brings together residential societies

The initiative has been held with the idea of promoting a sense of collectiveness and companionship among squash enthusiasts

Navya Naveli
BENGALURU

From the KGF squash tournament held in the city.

KGF Squash Showdown, the finale of a squash tournament organised by members of Bengaluru Squash Players Association at Lakshyan Academy, Sarjapur Road on Sunday, saw a participation of 120 players from 24 residential societies across the city.

Players from Embassy Pristine in Iblur and Adarsh Palace in Banashankari emerged as the winners.

Mekhala Subedar, a four-time national squash champion, was present at the event and said that such events would help to bring more attention to the sports and increase government grants.

"Getting all the Bengaluru players together is an excellent initiative. Squash, is moving forward after its inclusion in the Olympics, becoming a level-A sport. The government grants will also increase," she said.

Only in October this year was the decision to include squash in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics officially confirmed.

"We expect more than 300 players from Karnataka to attend another tournament that will be held in January," Ms. Subedar further added.

Squash is traditionally known as an individual sport.

According to the organisers, the initiative has been held with the idea of promoting a sense of collectiveness and companionship among squash enthusiasts.

Siddarth Phutela, the head coach at Lakshan Academy of Sports, said, "The tournament is a great opportunity as people, who want to do so much for squash and who are enthusiastic and help squash grow across Bengaluru and India, can connect."

Conducted over 11 weeks, the tournament saw 270 matches.

According to sports enthusiasts, while Bengaluru has not produced many squash champions, things have been changing lately. Pranay Merchant, a participant in the World Junior Championships in 2009, pointed out that in a tournament held last week, in the age group of over 25, more than 40 champions were from Bengaluru.

Four-time national squash champion Mekhala Subedar presenting the award to the winners of the squash tournament held in the city.

"The sport is growing, and there's an annual Bengaluru Squash League. The event has been a great success in bringing people together," he said.

"The fact that people have woken up at 8 a.m. on a Sunday and travelled across the city to play a match shows how passionate they are. Squash is a very intense sport, and it should have had its place in the Olympics long ago," he added. Jignesh Barfiwala, an entrepreneur and member of the organising committee, said that the organisers got people across Bengaluru to register for the tournament at short notice.

"Everyone responded very well. We hope that the next time, we will have twice the number of teams participating," he said.

Santosh Menon, captain of one of the participating teams pointed out the need for more women's participation in the game.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 12, 1973

Basavalingappa May be Dropped

New Delhi, Dec. 11: The Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, who had had a series of talks with the Central leaders during the last four days, has made up his mind to drop the Municipal Administration Minister, Mr. B. Basavalingappa.

Mr. Urs is expected to announce the reconstitution of his Ministry on his return to Bangalore on December 13. The State Governor, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia left to-day for Bombay from where he is expected to reach Bangalore on December 13. in time to receive from the Chief Minister the list of his new Ministers.

Demonstrations in Karnataka

Bangalore, Dec. 11: Demonstrations were held in a number of towns in Karnataka to-day protesting against the alleged atrocities of Kannadigas by Maharashtrians according to reports reaching the police headquarters here.

In Hubli-Dharwar area the police burst three tear-gas shells to disperse a violent crowd which threw stones when the police attempted to ensure the flow of vehicular traffic on the Bangalore Poona national highway. It is stated that about 5,000students took out a procession shouting slogans protesting against attacks on Kannadigas in some areas of Maharashtra. An unsuccessful attempt was also made to attack three lorries with Maharashtra number plates. The procession stopped vehicular traffic on the national highway for some time.

Green beats and eco treats

How Bloom In Green festival is attempting to spread the message of community and conscious living

Praveen Sudevan

Life, love and music Scenes from a previous edition of the Bloom in Green Festival. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As the sun sets over the lush landscapes of Sanctity Ferme in Krishnagiri, a unique gathering is set to unfold from December 15 to 18 – the Bloom In Green festival. Founded by Aswathy R, since its inception in 2018, this annual event has become a symbol of conscious living, uniting communities, fostering sustainability, and creating an immersive experience that transcends conventional festival norms.

"At Bloom In Green, we are believers in the power of mass gatherings, especially those with a meaningful purpose that can create a significant impact," says Aswathy. Bloom In Green is not merely a music festival but an open platform prioritising learning, creativity, and community engagement.

The festival was born to provide an alternative space that deviates from traditional societal norms. Aswathy recognised the need to elevate mass gatherings for young people, infusing them with purpose and meaning. Learning content became a pivotal addition to the festival's framework, focusing on simple, primitive activities that entertain and contribute to mental and physical well-being.

Bloom In Green is dedicated serves as a space for communication, collaboration, and sharing experiences. The festival aspires to create a temporary city or society, operating on principles of inclusivity and sustainability. Participants are invited to live in this alternative city for three days, experiencing different rules and dynamics.

Drawing inspiration from global phenomena, especially residential festivals lasting 10 days or two weeks, Bloom In Green is a pioneering effort in India. While events like Burning Man have inspired the concept, Aswathy emphasises the importance of rooting the approach in an "Indian context." The festival aims to cater to the specific needs and preferences of the Indian audience, drawing ideas from events like Envision and Bali Spirit Festival.

The festival's evolution

"Not much has fundamentally changed except for the increase in headcount," says Aswathy. The festival's design, focused on bringing various elements together for three days, has consistently resonated with people.

Even in its small and intimate first edition, Bloom In Green received heartfelt letters and Instagram posts from attendees. The impact observed in the early editions has continued, reinforcing the trust in the festival's design.

One remarkable aspect of Bloom In Green's growth is the growing willingness of people to actively participate in the festival. The demand for volunteer positions is so high that the festival receives around 300 volunteer requests as soon as the event is announced. The festival's community-driven nature sets it apart, with individuals from various backgrounds coming together for the love of the concept.

Sustainable practices

Challenges have been a part of Bloom In Green's journey, with monetary constraints being the foremost. Aswathy acknowledges, "We must keep the ticket prices high as the event involves creating a temporary city for three days." This approach is essential to address various needs such as accommodation, sanitation, and other essential services.

Finding a suitable space for the festival has been a recurring challenge. The unique nature of Bloom In Green, a residential festival, adds complexity to locating an ideal venue. Moreover, India's lack of a prevalent camping culture poses additional hurdles. "Unlike events such as Burning Man, where attendees bring their RVs and set up camps, camping is relatively new to many people in India," adds Aswathy.

In addressing these challenges, Bloom In Green actively involves the local community. The community contributes to the festival's decor, assists with food preparations, and plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the event.

Sustainability is at the core of the festival's ethos, evident in sourcing local materials and integrating regional art forms into the festival experience.

Innovative approach

Bloom In Green has not adhered to a specific theme for the past four years. However, this year marks a shift. "Our messaging centres around societal transformation through social gatherings," says Aswathy.

While previous editions focused on personal transformation, where attendees could come, learn, and leave in a better state, the current narrative extends to broader societal change. The festival aims to communicate to people unfamiliar with the concept that being part of such an event is beneficial and contributes to positive change globally.

Bloom In Green embraces innovative approaches to create connections among attendees. The festival experiments with a gifting economy, drawing inspiration from concepts such as Burning Man, where transactions are based on sharing and gifting. The aim is to create an environment where attendees experience something beyond the norm of everyday society.

Connections are further enhanced through various learning activities and engaging sessions. The festival hosts an inaugural ceremony featuring a drum circle involving many participants.

One impactful initiative undertaken by the festival is promoting insect food as a sustainable protein source for the future. Insect food sampling sessions are held at the festival, introducing attendees to potential future food sources.

"Our approach revolves around creating impact for society by providing a non-judgmental space," says Aswathy. "There is no separation between the community and participants; everyone is encouraged to treat each other respectfully, including the pets at our festival."

For tickets and more information, visit bloomingreenfestival.com.

What's happening?

Music lineup: Kaya Project (UK), Shtuby (ISR), Prem Joshua & Band (GER/IND), Carbon (GER), Suduaya (FRA), Shanka Tribe (IND), Sitarsonic (GRE), Trance Fusion Music (FRA/IND), Martin Du Bois (FRA), Shekhar Menon (IND), Jeremiah De Rozario (IND), Manvantra (IND: Chill Out), Playing Mandis (IND), Brewed Awakening (IND), Mister K (IND), Greydient (IND), Psy-Didge (IND) - Mosaïek (IND), Dawn (IND), Anicca Project (IND), Yumvee (IND), Sanyas-i (IND), Ashil (IND), Floating Folks (IND), K35hu (IND), Teknot (IND), Invisible Motion (IND), Vairagi (IND), Organic Muse (IND).

Workshops: Ecstatic Dance, Cacao Circle, Sound Healing, Capoeira, Contact Improv, Yoga, Macrame Making, Meditation Breathwork, Poi Spinning, Dapostar, Slackline Juggling, Kombucha Brewing, Bird Watching, Mushroom Kit Making, Afro Dance Learning, Mouth Harp, Mongolian Throat Singing, Pottery, Board Games, Hemp Craft Making, Permaculture Live Project, Make Your Hemp Paper, Pranayama Sessions.

CITYBEATS

Bento box treats

This Christmas, The Kind Roastery & Brewroom has come up with an assorted bento box, featuring desserts such as the butter giant cookie, vanilla coffee ganache cake and more. It comes in a pretty looking box and also is designed to be gifted away.

Orders can be be placed at 1316/F, 18 B Main Rd, JP Nagar, 2nd Phase.

A musical fusion

DECEMBER 16

Listen to a live performance by Chemmeen Band and Seniorz Melam.

Chemmeen is known for its soul-stirring compositions, while Seniorz Melam, brings the rich heritage of traditional melodies to life with a contemporary twist.

At Nexus Koramangala Mall, 7pm. Tickets available on BookMyShow

Winter wishes

DECEMBER 15 ONWARDS

Shiro has launched a special winter bowl menu, which will feature a selection of soups and one-pot dishes.

This menu which will be available for lunch and dinner will serve dishes from Japan, Korea, China, and Southeast Asia.

Shiro, at UB City, can be contacted on 41738861

Stories about women in India from a century ago

Shilpa Anandraj

A 27-minute documentary film – *Changemakers - The Extraordinary lives of Ordinary women in the Bombay Presidency* – made by Rupa Barua and curated by Neeta Premchand will be screened in Bengaluru.

"I am a paper maker and a paper historian who had nothing to do with filmmaking or art exhibitions," says 77-year-old Neeta. "It all started when we were closing up our house in Mumbai and found an entire archive of material about my husband's grandmother, Taraben Premchand. I was planning to give the file to the Tata Institute of Social Services so they could work with it but was advised by a close friend to work on it myself."

The file lay forgotten when the family shifted to Switzerland. It was during the pandemic that I revisited the archive and it was fascinating to see miniature handwritten documents of the many social gatherings that had happened almost a century ago. At that time the chairperson would document the events and that is how my grand mother-in-law had the file. I recognised many of the names from the archives, because most of my friends were descendants of the names mentioned in the archive."

Neeta then decided to call her friends and asked them to share any story or pictures that they had about their grandmothers and grand aunts. "That was also when the museum CSMVS (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya) was looking for a topic for their centenary celebrations. My in-laws, the Premchand family, were on the committee, and they told me to work on the archive I had. That is how, I became a curator, collecting data about the women and their principal ideas which I believe was the beginning of the women's movement in India. The women were trying to break stereotypes and move away from the patriarchal set up," says Neeta, who managed to collect information from primary sources. "I wanted to collect ordinary stories of the extraordinary work of these women that also captured the essence of what it was to be a woman a 100 years ago. I met people who did remember stories about their grandmothers and aunts."

A peek into the past Neeta Premchand and (below) a still from the film. SPECIAL ARRA NGEMENT

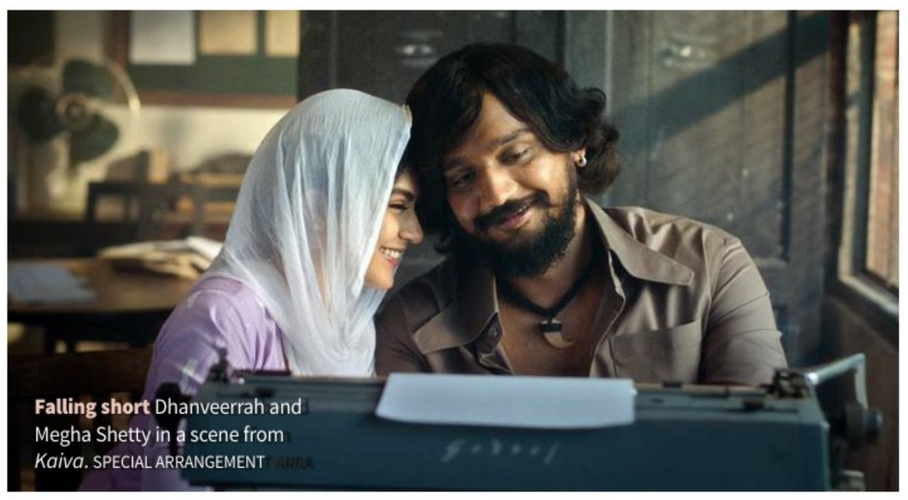
Neeta exhibited her curation as art works, The *Changemakers - The Extraordinary Lives of Ordinary* – in galleries and museums, first in Mumbai and then Ahmedabad.

"The exhibitions were a success. Many people from my generation came, as most of us knew the women featured in some way or the other. Looking to document these stories in a permanent format, we came out with a book. Sanjana Shah, who was working with me, helped me convert the material into a book. *Changemakers - The Extraordinary lives of Ordinary Women in the Bombay Presidency,* published by CSMVS features 50 women social reformers. I feel guilty about leaving out the rest. There is only this much a mind can take. Then, Rupa Barua, a filmmaker did a screen adaptation of the book and that is how the documentary came into being, which has been touring the country and we are in Bengaluru for the same".

"What united these women was their passion, even though they came from different social and economic backgrounds. It was a fight for liberation, but in a gentle way of pressing ahead for what they believed in and wanted to achieve. Each woman saw a need and worked towards it. One must recognise the contribution of these women," says Neeta.

The film will be screened on December 12 at The Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, 6.30pm and is open to all.

FILM REVIEW



Falling short Dhanveerrah and Megha Shetty in a scene from *Kaiva*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Crippling lack of focus

Vivek M.V.

Jayathirtha Jayanna's *Kaiva* is the latest addition to the long list of films on the Bengaluru underworld. The film is about an event that took place on the same day as the 1983 Gangaram building collapse, one of the worst tragedies in Bengaluru.

The film's protagonist, Kaiva (Dhanveerah), migrates to the city from a small town for employment and lives in Thigalrapet, known for hosting Karaga, one of the city's oldest festivals. Kaiva falls in love with Salma (Megha Shetty), but a shocking event upsets the world of these lovers, turning the film into a saga of revenge.

Kaiva suffers from a lack of focus from the director; there seems to be no sense of urgency from Jayathirtha to strengthen the central conflict, as he attempts to pack in too many elements into the plot. For instance, the film begins with a striking puppetry show designed by Belagallu Veeranna, a Padmashri Award winner.

It depicts the origin of Karaga. However, the festival fails to add value to the film apart from one obvious connection between the two.

The portrayal of the Bengaluru mafia is not extraordinary either – Nanda Gopal, Uggram Manju, and Raghu Shivomagga are capable performers but, undone by weak characterisation, they seem hardly menacing as villains.

Jayathirtha also seemed to have been burdened by the challenge of handling a 'mass' hero. *Kaiva,* at regular intervals, transforms itself into a larger-than-life film with dialogues and action sequences written only to enhance the 'mass' appeal of Dhanveerah, who delivers a flat performance. This template treatment of a period drama dents the film's flow.

Jayathirtha is a well-read filmmaker who endorses progressive thinking, but his vision is not in sync with the character he has written.

Kaiva speaks about religious harmony and Gandhism. Who has influenced Kaiva's philosophy? A peek into his past would have given us the answers.

In the Rishab Shetty-starrer *Bell Bottom,* Jayathirtha managed to add a retro vibe to the plot.

He fails to offer a similar experience with *Kaiva*. The plot's core is a love story, which never really gains emotional heft due to cliched writing. Another let-down is the portrayal of a sexual assault scene; it is high time filmmakers learn to convey the gruesome act through an effective approach rather than showing it an old-school manner that makes it an uncomfortable experience for viewers.

Kaiva finally finds purpose when the protagonist takes on the perpetrators. In retrospect, the film had great potential to be a taut thriller. Even if the story is from the history books, the filmmaking had room to be inventive and fresh. Jayathirtha is a far better filmmaker than what we see here and *Kaiva* is a misstep in his interesting career.

Kaiva is currently running in theatres.

Kaiva (Kannada)
Director: Jayathirtha Jayanna
Cast: Dhanveerrah, Megha Shetty, Dinakar Thoogudeepa, Ramesh Indira, Jayaram Karthik
Runtime: 138 minutes
Storyline: Inspired from true events in the Bengaluru of the 1980s, the film is about a youngster called Kaiva, who takes on gangsters for the sake of his love story.

INBRIEF

YSRCP MLA Alla Ramakrishna Reddy quits Assembly, party

The YSR Congress Party MLA from Mangalagiri, Alla Ramakrishna Reddy, tendered his resignation to the Assembly Speaker on Monday. He resigned from the party membership as well. Mr. Ramakrishna Reddy, speaking to the media, thanked the people of Mangalagiri for electing him twice. He said that he had served with dedication. "Though it is painful, it is necessary to take a harsh decision.," he said. He said he was quitting the MLA post and party membership on personal grounds and that he would disclose his future course of action very soon.

Stalin writes to Jaishankar on fishermen's arrest

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday wrote a letter to Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar, seeking his immediate intervention to repatriate 25 Indian fishermen who were recently arrested by the Sri Lankan navy. He wanted to highlight that attacks on fishermen were on the rise and such incidents have had serious repercussions on their lives. He requested Mr. Jaishankar to direct the Indian mission in the island nation to initiate urgent measures to repatriate the apprehended and their boats.

Documentary on 'Naatu Naatu' lyricist wins award

A documentary on Oscar award winning lyricist Subhash Chandrabose, famous for the "Naatu Naatu" song from the Telugu movie *RRR*, has won an award at 12th Mumbai Shorts International Film Festival. The documentary, produced and directed by senior journalist Chilkuri Sushil Rao was given a special mention award at the 12th Mumbai Shorts International Film festival on Sunday. Mr. Chandrabose won the Oscar for Best Original Song at the 95th Academy Awards in March. PTI

Kharge criticises Karnataka Dy.CM's stand on caste census

BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi says love of Congress towards Other Backward Communities a farce; cites D.K. Shivakumar signing a petition against making Karnataka's caste survey report public

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid reports that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar are opposed to each other on releasing the State's caste census report, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge publicly criticised Mr. Shivakumar's stand in Rajya Sabha on Monday.

"All upper caste people are united on this," Mr. Kharge charged, when the BJP members sought his opinion on the differences within the Karnataka government. During a discussion on two Bills related to Jammu and Kashmir, senior BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi said the love the Congress shows towards Other Backward Communities (OBCs) is a farce and cited the example of Mr. Shivakumar's stand on caste census.

> All upper caste people are united on this. Both BJP and Shivakumar are one in this issue. This is the character of caste. Upper caste people will be united internally
>
> **MALLIKARJUN KHARGE**
> Congress president

"Mr. Kharge must tell us when will your government make the caste survey report public. The Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister signed on a petition against making the report public," Mr. Modi said.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, on his part, noted that besides the Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister, Congress MLAs and Veerashaiva Mahasabha leaders have opposed it as well.

Mr. Kharge claimed that Mr. Shivakumar and the BJP are against the caste census report.

"He is also opposing, you are also opposing," Mr. Kharge said.

"Both are one in this issue. This is the character of caste. Upper caste people will be united internally," Mr. Kharge said.

Clogging of waterways due to plastics and other waste is one of the reasons for flooding in Chennai: HC

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

Justices S. Vaidyanathan and P.T. Asha of the Madras High Court on Monday expressed displeasure over poor implementation of waste segregation at source in Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) limits.

They said clogging of waterways due to plastics and other wastes was also one of the reasons for flooding during the recent rains in the city due to Cyclone Michaung.

'Lack of will'

While hearing a revision petition related to the ban on single use plastics in the State, the judges said segregation of biodegradable and non biodegradable waste at source was not being implemented properly. They also stated that there appeared to be a lack of will for a coordinated action between different departments to put an end to the plastic menace.

The observations were made in the presence of Environment Secretary Supriya Sahu; Industries Secretary V. Arun Roy; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department Secretary Archana Patnaik and a host of other officials who had joined the hearing virtually.

The judges said only reports after reports were being filed in the court on plastic eradication with nothing much happening on the ground.

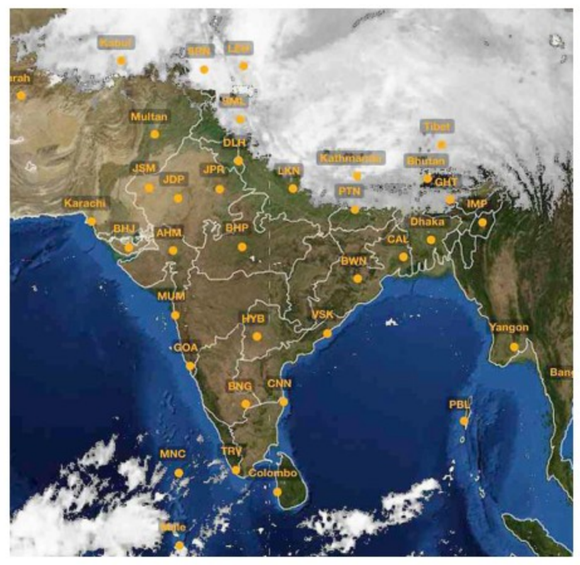
"If one report has 15 paragraphs, the next report reproduces the same thing with one additional paragraph. And this is happening hearing after hearing," Justice Asha lamented. Since GCC Commissioner J. Radhakrishnan would be the right person to address the court on waste segregation in the city, the judges asked him too to join the hearing virtually on Friday along with the other officials.

Earlier, when the judges wanted to know the result of a survey conducted by Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited with respect to the willingness of consumers to purchase Aavin milk in glass bottles instead of plastic packets, the federation's Managing Director S. Vineeth told the court that there was a mixed response from the consumers for such a proposal.

On being asked what would happen to the plastic packets that do not reach the Aavin parlours, the MD said they would get segregated by the local bodies.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/ hail/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	23.6	15.0	Kozhikode	7	33.6	26.1
Ahmedabad	—	29.9	16.5	Kurnool	—	32.5	19.2
Aizawl	—	24.7	—	Lucknow	—	24.7	9.8
Allahabad	—	27.5	11.9	Madurai	—	30.8	25.0
Bengaluru	—	29.0	19.5	Mangaluru	23	31.4	24.0
Bhopal	—	26.8	12.0	Mumbai	—	33.1	21.6
Bhubaneswar	—	27.6	18.2	Mysuru	—	30.4	26.0
Chandigarh	—	24.6	8.4	New Delhi	—	24.8	6.5
Chennai	—	29.0	23.5	Patna	—	25.6	10.8
Coimbatore	—	29.1	22.6	Port Blair	—	31.3	25.0
Dehradun	—	22.4	7.6	Puducherry	—	28.6	24.8
Gangtok	—	13.4	7.8	Pune	—	31.3	17.0
Goa	—	34.1	23.8	Raipur	—	28.1	15.4
Guwahati	—	26.8	16.5	Ranchi	—	23.0	10.1
Hubballi	—	32.0	21.0	Shillong	—	17.0	8.6
Hyderabad	—	29.1	16.1	Shimla	—	16.9	6.5
Imphal	—	24.6	11.9	Srinagar	—	10.6	-4.8
Jaipur	—	25.4	10.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	26.4
Kochi	3	31.6	26.0	Tiruchi	—	31.5	24.0
Kohima	—	10.2	5.8	Vijayawada	—	33.6	18.7
Kolkata	—	25.6	14.6	Visakhapatnam	—	29.2	23.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	54	21	112	107	
Bengaluru	4	31	49	63	110	
Chennai	20	24	—	71	94	
Delhi	9	112	64	380	290	
Hyderabad	3	34	67	94	129	
Kolkata	17	81	37	176	135	
Lucknow	7	59	110	226	161	
Mumbai	13	78	33	175	163	
Pune	122	188	110	231	132	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	51	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Katihar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 365 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL FAMILY COURT CITY CIVIL COURT AT HYDERABAD
OP. NO. 125 OF 2023

BETWEEN
Venkat Ramana Kandhari, S/o. Parameshwar Kandhari, Aged about 46 years, Occ: Pvt service, R/o H. No:37-103/8, Plot no.34, Road No.1, Madhura Nagar, Neredmet, Telangana-56.
...Petitioner

AND
Eisha Ambardar W/o Venkat Ramana Kandhari, D/o Bal Krishnan Ambardar, Aged About 33 years, Occupation: House wife, Flat no G208, Nandi Woods Apartment, Nobel Residency, Phase 2, Tejaswini Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560076.
...Respondent

NOTICE / SUMMON

Whereas the petitioner Venkat Ramana Kandhari has filed the case for dissolution of Marriage, OP. No. 125 of 2023, on the file of principal Family Court Judge, City Civil Court at Hyderabad against you (Respondent). Therefore Respondent you are hereby summoned to appear at this court in person or through your counsel on 21-12-2023 at 10.30 am in Morning to answer the claim before the said Court, Failing which you will be heard Ex-Parte and the matter will be decided on merits.

// BY ORDER OF THE COURT//
Mohammed Nayeem, Aftab Ghori, Advocates
Plot No.24, Rao & Raju Colony, Banjara hills, Road No 2, Hyderabad. Cell: 9160308888

TENDERS

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from reputed parties having GST Registration for the supply of Polythene Film and Rain guarding Adhesive for the rain guarding work of the various Estates of the Corporation for the year 2024-25.

For more details log on
www.sfckerala.com

Sd/-
Managing Director
The State Farming Corporation of Kerala Ltd.
Punalur, Kollam, Ph: **0475-2222251/52, 9188292251**

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

CBSE SCIENCE EXHIBITION

The CBSE Science Exhibition was hosted by BGS National Public School, Hulimavu. Students from 48 schools participated with their projects. The programme was inaugurated by C V Yelamaggad, a scientist. Principal Malini M Dutta welcomed the gathering. Judges announced eleven projects to be represented in the National level competition.

ANNUAL DAY 2023

The senior segment of National Public School, Kengeri, celebrated their tenth Annual Day 2023 with their first ever home production titled 'Maurya Yasho Gaatha...feel the vibes of AIKYAM'. It was a show solely conceptualised, designed and executed by the students and faculties of the school under the guidance of Padma Hemanth, director, Sangeetha Nrithya Academy. The occasion was graced by the chief guest Girish S., Deputy Commissioner Police, West Division, and secretary, Divya B S. The annual report was presented by Principal Geeta Dikshit. The cultural extravaganza included dance performances, dialogues, costumes, and stage decorations.

EDUTAINMENT AT ITS BEST FOR YOUNG READERS

YOUNG WORLD CLUB.com from THE HINDU GROUP

Young World Club is a fun-filled online edutainment portal from The Hindu, packed with rich multimedia content to make learning exciting. Updated every week, it offers children new ways to learn through its interactive sections on Think, Read, Do, Travel, Play, and Change. The content is presented in various interactive formats such as quizzes, crosswords, sliders, puzzles, dialog cards, flash cards, presentations, videos, games, timelines, and so on. Curated for children of age groups 8-11 (Juniors), 12-15 (Seniors), parents and teachers, this web platform offers children new ways to understand diverse topics.

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EAST COAST RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. ST-OT-AMRIT-BHARAT-06-360 Dt. 05.12.2023

Name of the Work : PROVISION OF VARIOUS TELECOM PASSENGER AMENITIES (CIB & TIB) IN CONNECTION WITH AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME (ABSS) AT MANCHESWAR (MCS), DHENKANAL (DNKL), TALCHER (TLHR) AND ANGUL (ANGL) STATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Tender Value: ₹ 5,06,05,127.86, EMD: ₹4,03,000/-.

Bidding start date: **13.12.2023, Tender closing date & time :** at **1100 hrs**. of **27.12.2023.**

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), Khurda Road

PR-868/O/23-24

BEFORE THE FAMILY COURT AT CHENGALPATTU, TAMIL NADU.
MC No 45 /2023

N.Sovitha W/o. J.Selvakumar
No. B-47, 7th Cross street,
Anna Nagar, Chengelpet 603001.
...Petitioner.

Vs

Mr.Selvakumar S/o. Janakiraman
NO.105, Pazhamalai Nathar Street
Cement Road, Virudhachalam,
Cuddalore Dt-606001
... Respondent

In the petition filed by Mrs.N. Sovitha against you for Maintenance before the Hon'ble Family Court at Chengalpattu, The Hon'ble Family Court Judge was pleased to order notice to you by way of paper publication.

Please Take notice and appear before the Hon'ble Family Court at Chengalpattu in person on 14.12.2023 at 10.30 am failing which the above suit will be heard and decided in your absence.

Dated at chengalpatu on this the 1st day of December, 2023

N.Sovitha
Petitioner

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No. E-88/2023-24 **E-TENDERS** **Date: 08.12.2023**

E-Tender are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vender must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. **The details of tenders are in the following sequence - S.No., Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. 1.** 10231295, (29/12/2023), Kit Gasket (Cylinder Head Cover), to PL No. 16171391, 99 Nos. **2.** 10231836, (2912/2023), Gasket, to PL No. 16170180, 15 Nos. & PL No. 16170192, 14 Nos. **3.** 10231841. (29/12/2023), Seal, to PL No. 16240327, 12 Nos. **4.** 10231846, (29/12/2023), Gasket, to PL No. 16170076 & 16170416, 255 & 36 Nos & PL No. 16170817 & 16170829, 11 & 45 Nos. & 16171202, 08 Nos. **5.** 10231868, (29/12/2023), Gasket, to PL No 16170787 & 16171172, 10 Nos. & 02 Nos. **6.** 10231839, (29/12/2023), Connector-45 Degree, to PL No. 16240911, 15 Nos. **7.** 10231847, (03/01/2024), Hose Assembly, to PL No. 16360140 & 16360151, 09 Nos, & 09 Nos. **8.** 10231854, (03/01/2024), Seal O Ring, to PL No. 16170088 & 16170593, 19 Nos & 28 Nos. & PL No. 16170740, 18 Nos. **9.** 10231862, (03/01/2024), Tee-Hydraulic 37 Degree, to PL No. 16240492, 06 Nos. **10.** 10231826, (03/01/2024), Coupling (Love Joy), to PL No. 16240583, 05 Nos. **11.** 03231099C, 01/01/24,15.00, 29250559,Developmental tender for Sealing Rubbers, 30 Set. **12.** 03231111B, 01/01/24,15.00,29610916, Developmental tender for Set of Fitting, 30 Set. **13.** 03231353B, 01/01/24,15.00,29720977, Developmental tender for Set of Insulating Base, 20 Set. **14.** 03231474A (26.12.23), Auxiliary Compressor Hose, PL No. 29232703, 403 Nos. **15.** 03231069 (28.12.23), Aluminium Pressed Section Kit, PL No. 29170783, 420 set. **16.** 03230107B (28.12.23), Tube Cu. 6 mm, PL No. 29170850, 406 Metre **17.** 03231478C (28.12.23), Tube Cu. 6.35 mm, PL No. 29170138, 101 Metre. **18.** 03231456C (26/12/2023), Gasket, PL NO. 11271000, 04 Nos., PL NO- 11270548, 04 Nos. **19.** 03231469A (29/12/2023), Pipe Cap, PL NO. 11291874, 04 Nos. **20.** 09231295, (15/01/2024), Cable Tie 360 X 4.8 PA, to PL No. 29618710, 75500 Nos. **21.** E-RA (Double Bid System) T. No. 09231254, (08/01/2024), Traction Alternator for WDG4/WDG4D/WDP4/WDP4B/WDP4D Locomotives to PL No. 18020010, 32 Nos. **22.** 05231048A (20.12.2023), Work Basket, Part No. 72907307, Qty. 18 Nos. **23.** 05221066C (08.01.2024), Grinding Wheel Type-I Size: 250 X 25.4 X 25.4MM, Part No. 70411141, Qty. 22 Nos. **24.** 05231168A (29.12.2023), Air Drive Kit for Crank, Part No. 15610858, Qty. 02 Nos. **25.** 05231189B (01.01.2024), MILD STEEL PLATES 20X(2000 or 2500) X (4000 or 4500 or 5600), Part No.90411821, Qty. 15 Mt. **CORRIGENDUM NOTICE :- 26. Tender No. Global Tender:** 09221338A **Bid No.:** E-78/2023-24, **Rev. No. :** 01 **Existing Due Date:** 05/12/2023 **Revised Due Date:** 01/01/2024 **27. Tender No.:** 06231754 **Bid No.:** E-72/2023-24, **Rev. :** 01 **Existing Due Date:** 07/12/2023 **Revise Due Date:** 12/12/2023 **Note:-** All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. The details of above tenders are available on **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in**

PRO/BLW/S-93 **Principal Chief Material Manager**

/blwvaranasi" Website:- www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

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(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
59, Richmond Road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road) Bengaluru-25
Ph: 080 – 25584102/25594893 Website: www.ksphc.org
EE Contract E-mail : eecontractksphc@gmail.com,

No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/13/2023-24 **Date: 08.12.2023**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act & as per Standard Tender Document **KW-4** (two cover tender document system) through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

1 Construction of Sewage Treatment plant (STP) of 150 KLD Capacity in Central Prison, Mysore. (APT Rs.107.70 Lakhs).
2 Construction of Sewage Treatment plant (STP) of 150 KLD Capacity in Central Prison, Hindalga at Belgaum. (APT Rs.108.83 Lakhs).
3 Construction of Sewage Treatment plant (STP) of 150 KLD Capacity in Central Prison at Dharwad. (APT Rs.108.02 Lakhs).
4 Construction of Sewage Treatment plant (STP) of 150 KLD Capacity in Central Prison, Kalaburgi. (APT Rs.108.83 Lakhs).
5 Construction of Sewage Treatment plant (STP) of 250 KLD Capacity in Central Prison and womens Prison at Shivamogga. (APT Rs.131.83 Lakhs).
6 Construction of Sewage Treatment plant (STP) of 150 KLD Capacity in Central Prison, Ballari. (APT Rs.103.98 Lakhs)

The Interested Eligible contractors may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender Fee, E.M.D, Tender Documents etc., are available on **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from 18.12.2023**.

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."

Note : Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP).

DIPR/CP/2500/AKAR/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer – Contracts**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
Construction & Maintenance Group
Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru-560 094
Ph:080-22172614/2613

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following works:

Title of work and NIT No.	**SITC of 11/0.433kV Substation for ECLSS and other allied facilities at Devanahalli, Bengaluru (Electrical Works) HSFC/CMG/2(5)/E/92/2023-24 Date: 11.12.2023**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 349.90 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**06 Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 12.12.2023 (11.00 Hrs.) to 25.12.2023 (23.30 hrs.)**
Due date and time of submission	**28.12.2023 up to 11.00 hrs.**
Date and time of opening of tenders	**28.12.2023 at 11.30 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 6,99,800/-**

Tender documents can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vender registration is displayed in the above website.

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit: **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

Ominous, anti-federal

The Supreme Court's J&K verdict has imperilled the rights of States

The Supreme Court verdict upholding the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution represents not merely judicial deference, but a retreat from the Court's known positions on federalism, democratic norms and the sanctity of legal processes. It is undoubtedly a political boost to the ruling BJP and an endorsement of its audacious move in August 2019 to strip Kashmir of its special status and bring it on a par with other States. However, it is also a verdict that legitimises the subversion of federal principles, fails to appreciate historical context and undermines constitutional procedure. The most potent attack on federal principles is the Court's unconscionable conclusion that Parliament, while a State is under President's Rule, can do any act, legislative or otherwise, and even one with irreversible consequences, on behalf of the State legislature. This alarming interpretation comes close to undermining a basic feature of the Constitution as enunciated by the Court itself and may have grave implications for the rights of States, permitting a range of hostile and irrevocable actions in the absence of an elected body. The government and its supporters have much to cheer about as the Constitution Bench has endorsed its stand and rejected strong arguments from the petitioners, especially the point that the government had acted in a *mala fide* manner by imposing President's Rule preparatory to the intended abrogation of special status without the need to involve any elected representative from J&K.

The government had adopted a complicated process to give effect to the ruling BJP's long-cherished ambition of removing the State's special status. It had gone on to divide and downgrade it into two Union Territories (UT). It began with a Constitutional Order on August 5, 2019 applying the whole of the Constitution to J&K and changing some definitions so that the State's Legislative Assembly could recommend the abrogation instead of its now-dissolved Constituent Assembly, as originally envisaged in Article 370(3). Ultimately, the Court ruled that parts of the August 5 order were unconstitutional as they, in effect, amounted to amending Article 370 itself, which was impermissible; but, in a peculiar twist, it held the consequential notification on August 6 declaring Article 370 as valid and that the President was empowered to do so even without the legal underpinnings of the previous day's notification that sought to bolster the validity of the action. The President could remove the State's special status without any recommendation.

The Court has reasoned that the Constitution of India has been applied incrementally from time to time even after the Constituent Assembly was dissolved in 1957 and that the removal of special status is nothing but the culmination of the process of its integration. Even if this line of argument is seen as unobjectionable, the idea that in the absence the Constituent Assembly and in view of the subordination of J&K to the sovereignty of India, there is no fetter on the government's intention to hollow out its residual autonomy is opposed to all canons of federalism and democracy. There is no doubt that J&K is not vested with any sovereignty. The Court says Article 370 represents no more than a form of asymmetric federalism and that additional features – such as having a separate Constitution, residuary power of legislation and requirement of its consent to some legislative subjects before Parliament can make law on them – will not clothe it with sovereignty. All of this is true. But, how this can mean that historical obligations owed to it and promises made by constitutional functionaries can be blown away at the ruling dispensation's whim is beyond comprehension. Forgotten is the fact that the process of integration itself was by and large built on a constant dialogue between Kashmir's leaders and the Union government, the context and conditions in which it acceded to India, the terms of the Instrument of Accession and the progressive extension of constitutional provisions with the consent of the State government over the years.

The Court's failure to give its ruling on whether the Constitution permits the reorganisation of J&K into two UTs is an astounding example of judicial evasion. It is shocking that the Court chose not to adjudicate a question that arose directly from the use of Article 3 of the Constitution for the first time to downgrade a State. The only reason given is that the Solicitor-General gave an assurance that the Statehood of J&K would be restored. It is questionable whether a mere assurance of a remedial measure can impart validity to any action. At the same time, the Court upheld the carving out of Ladakh as a separate UT. On this point, the verdict is an invitation to the Union to consider creation of new UTs out of parts of any State. The Court's position that there is no limit on the President's power or Parliament's competence to act on behalf of the State government and its legislature is equally fraught with danger. In particular, the reference to "non-legislative" powers of the State Assemblies poses a significant threat to the powers devolved to the States. A future regime at the Centre could impose President's rule to carry out extraordinary actions through its own parliamentary majority that an elected government in a State may never do. The view that some of these may be restored by a subsequently elected government or House is of little consolation if actions taken under the cover of President's Rule cause great damage to the State's interests. This is a verdict that weakens institutional limitations on power, and, while rightly upholding Indian sovereignty over J&K, it undermines federalism and democratic processes to a frightening degree.

Decrypting today's psephology and anti-incumbency

Ajay Gudavarthy

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Israeli writer Yuval Noah Harari had said that the algorithm is the most important word of the 21st century. But another word that is giving it a run for its money during the electoral season is 'anti-incumbency'. Psephologists are now fond of explaining (without understanding?) a lot of things that happen as a part of anti-incumbency. They almost speak of it the way cricket commentators speak of averages. Even in cricket, it often makes no sense to say that a team won at a venue for 'n' number of times, which often has no correlation or causation with the result in the next game. In cricket, this could add to the entertainment quotient, but to reduce elections to a law of averages is to completely miss the thrust that needs to be there in foregrounding the key issues that matter to people, and why they turn out to vote in such large numbers.

A displacement of the focus

What such anodyne language of anti-incumbency does is to shift the attention from the issues that matter and reduces it to averages and the business of prediction (like Nostradamus). Even more dismaying is that such language tends to normalise discontent. For example, the Congress lost in the Rajasthan Assembly election because that has been the trend for the last 30 years, which displaces the question why are people perennially unhappy with their governments and what are the issues that have been going unheard for 30 years. Had the Congress won in Rajasthan, the debate would be about the Congress having beaten anti-incumbency, and in terms of how the trend was broken. Or, it could then be argued that there is a trend of pro-incumbency, as seen in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

But the question is not about pro-incumbency in Madhya Pradesh but, instead, how a government does win a large number of seats with a not-so-good-looking governance track record. Why did issues of mis-governance not matter? Or, how were they made not to matter? This displacement of focus on social development contributes handsomely to 'electoral autocracy'.

The language of anti-incumbency is a technocratic one that works as a neo-liberal assemblage. It flattens out complex processes to feed the electronic media and digital images. The language of averages and quantifying electoral outcomes turns the electoral process into an algorithmic equation. Part of the problem is that policy preferences and differences between political parties have become so marginal to the process that quantification is the only method left to make sense of differences between the parties. The meaninglessness of 'choicelessness' for the electorate is converted into a meaningful-looking language of 'averages', 'patterns' and 'pro- and anti-incumbency'.

> Election analysis is now entertainment feeding hyper-nationalism, in which critical debate and reflection are missing

The power of a certain party

Further, the corollary of such a language that empties out the process of issues is the emergence of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as an electoral machine. It is the sheer 'speed and scale' that brings forth the language of efficiency and last mile and minute electoral calculations that become the focus of analysis by psephologists. The BJP is today able to address issues through its sheer capacity to generate a great amount of last minute mobilisation. Earlier, we would argue that the electorate suffers from short-term memory that allows political parties to get away with murder. Now it is about last minute campaigning. This again makes 'organisation', 'money' and 'a high-decibel campaign' a part and parcel of a great strategy and electoral engineering. It again displaces the fact of why or how organisational power allows the BJP to subvert social power dynamics. Of how a great degree of social fragmentation is forged to divide social groups. Of what it does to weaken the ability to raise discontent. At one level, the process is about normalising discontent. And at another, about criminalising dissent and the intermediary space which is filled by organisational heft and meticulous planning. All of these processes are later analysed as either pro or anti-incumbency!

Finally, electoral mobilisation has normalised elections into becoming a spectacle. The spectre of drama is a part of electoral communication, but the impact on social ethics and the fabric of collective trust becomes sidelined. It has become a new normal for election analysts and psephologists to gloat over and expect the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to perform some last minute magic that will tilt votes in the BJP's favour even if the BJP has performed miserably in terms of governance. In Karnataka, for example, the BJP faced a great degree of discontent because of massive corruption and other related issues of social apathy. But Mr. Modi, in last minute attempts, tried to convert it into a debate on Bajrang Bali, misinterpreting it as Bajrang Dal, or the other way round. Mr. Modi further claimed that the Congress was interested in seceding Karnataka from India. In Gujarat, in earlier elections, it was about Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and a former Vice-President taking '*supari*' from across the border against Mr. Modi. What does such baseless discourse do to trust that is necessary for any functional democracy in the long run? Deliberation is being gradually displaced by 'conspiracy', and social issues get converted into a discourse on securitisation.

All these electoral battles become converted into a war zone and a zero-sum game. The last minute pressure – like the last over in a cricket match – brings tension and drama, and is like the climax of a crime thriller. It shifts from deliberating on issues to, instead, what is most entertaining. And that in turn becomes, or is attempted to be pushed as, the criteria of electoral choice. When Mr. Modi succeeds it is often typified as 'Modi Magic' and attributed to Mr. Modi's great oratory skills. But what is happening is a stuffing down the throats of people of high-decibel and extremely dystopian images meant to create cognitive and emotional dissonance. Elections are moving away from issues to that of speed, scale and organisational efficiency replacing or off-setting electoral choices made on the basis of issues.

Psephology and electoral analysis are already a willing part of this shift. They are more techniques and technologies of power dynamics rather than analysis meant for reflection and deliberation. What such technocratic psephology does is to easily convert it and make it a part of the campaign of the ruling dispensation. Why so many exit polls go so dramatically wrong is never a point of discussion. But each time there are elections, we are back to this language of anti-incumbency and averages, where critical debate and reflection are swept under the carpet.

Disappearance of issues

Over a period, there has been near-complete invisibilisation of a lot of issues that were considered a part of public discourse in India. What are the levels of poverty in India? And, Below Poverty Line (BPL)? What percentage of the population is BPL, which was part of public debate not so long ago, and which has been replaced now by the language of GDP growth rates – again the language of numbers and averages? What are the working conditions of migrants in the informal sector that had become invisible till migrants began to walk back home during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown? It is a different matter that death itself became invisible during the pandemic. It is this technocratic invisibilisation that has become the root and source of hyper-nationalism and the freshly minted fantasy of becoming a *vishwaguru*.

Harvest the Odisha story to ensure food security

Anu Garg

IAS, is Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha

Elisabeth Faure

is Representative and Country Director, United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP), and a part of Team UN in India

As the world's leaders are in a huddle for COP28, or the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (November 30 to December 12, 2023), in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, the worsening impact of the climate crisis paints a grim picture for the planet, peace and prosperity.

Disasters are projected to increase to 560 per year, that is 1.5 per day; hunger and malnutrition are expected to grow by 20% if the climate change impact goes unchecked, and food productivity is expected to decline by 21% due to global warming.

As the world witnesses a worsening global food crisis precipitated by the mounting climate crisis, spiralling conflicts and distressed livelihoods, Odisha's transformational journey is increasingly being cited as a model and a source of ideas for creating food security that is built around equity and sustainability.

Odisha's story has three specific themes in the current scenario: how the State strengthened food security by transforming agriculture through a community-driven approach and built resilience to climate impact.

Agricultural transformation

In the past two decades, Odisha has moved from importing rice from other States and making ends meet in the pre-2000s to, in 2022, producing 13.606 million tonnes of food grains, its highest production on record.

There are two notable aspects: a majority of farmers are small/marginal, and productivity has increased despite stable crop area. The average rice yield, which is Odisha's main crop, has tripled in two decades. In 2000-01, the average yield was 10.41 quintals per hectare, but by 2020-21, it had increased to 27.30 quintals per hectare.

Kalahandi district was known as the "land of hunger," but has now been transformed into Odisha's rice bowl. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik shared this at the United Nations World Food Programme headquarters, where he addressed Odisha's commitment towards achieving the 'Zero Hunger' goal of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.

> With climate change threatening global food productivity, Odisha's efforts in climate-proofing its agricultural system have resulted in a unique development model

The focus is on small and marginal farmers and increasing their income. This has directly contributed to strengthening their food security and creating resilient livelihoods.

Implementing flagship schemes such as Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) and disseminating scientific crop management practices through conventional and digital extension have increased non-paddy crop cultivation, while paddy cultivation has decreased. Schemes such as the Odisha Millet Mission have also helped diversify crops and promote climate resilience.

Resilience and sustainability

Due to its geographical location and physical conditions, Odisha is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. This phenomenon can disrupt current growth strategies and exacerbate poverty, as it may lead to a loss of life, livelihoods, assets, and infrastructure. Odisha has proactively developed a comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan to address these concerns.

This plan covers various sectors, including agriculture, coastal zone protection, energy, fisheries and animal resources, forests, health, industries, mining, transport, and urban and water resources. It was formulated by a team of experts from multiple departments and incorporates inputs from civil society. Various departments and agencies are responsible for implementing the activities identified in the plan, which are being monitored by a committee headed by the Chief Secretary.

The approach towards climate resilience is being developed from the bottom up. The Crop Weather Watch Group conducts weekly meetings, sees field visits by officers, and has video conferences to monitor the crop programme. This helps the authorities to take necessary measures during adverse weather conditions such as cyclones, floods, and droughts, which are frequent in the State.

Crop planning is done at the district level by officials of allied departments, considering the agro-climatic zone. Farmers are adopting climate-resilient cultivation practices, that include integrated farming, zero-input-based natural farming, non-paddy crops, better water management, water-saving devices, e-pest surveillance, and large-scale farm mechanisation with women-friendly drudgery-reducing farm implements. Training farmers in crop-specific techniques, including integrated nutrient and pest management, has boosted food grains production.

Social protection

The consistent improvement of the agricultural sector has made Odisha a surplus State for paddy production. It is the fourth most significant contributor to the paddy pool of the Food Corporation of India. According to the available statistics for 2020-21, Odisha produces 9% of the total rice in India and accounts for 4.22% of the total food-grain production of the country.

The partnership between the United Nations World Food Programme and the Government of Odisha has seen innovation for pilots on improving food and nutrition security schemes, such as the application of biometric technology in the Targeted Public Distribution System in remote Rayagada district back in 2007, or rice fortification in Gajapati district, to name a few. In the State Ranking Index for the National Food Security Act by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, for 2022, Odisha emerged as the top-ranked State in the entire country. The WFP collaborates with the Government of Odisha on its food security, livelihood and climate resilience initiatives.

Odisha's transformative journey, from food grains scarcity to the generation of surplus, sustained efforts in climate-proofing its agricultural system, crop diversification, protection of the interest of the smallholders, and food and nutrition security for the vulnerable presents a unique development model for other States in the context of the challenges of global climate change.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Court verdict, Article 370

The long-awaited judgment of the Supreme Court, which has now upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate the provisions of Article 370, being one of the oldest ideological movements of the RSS/BJP, has given legal closure to a decades-long debate.

At the same time, the Court's vague direction to the Centre for restoration of Statehood "as soon as possible" and to the Election Commission of India to conduct elections to the Legislative Assembly of J&K by September 30, 2024, is baffling, given the fact that following the verdict, the Home Minister has claimed that since the abrogation of Article 370, "peace and normalcy" have returned to J&K. Article 370 was not an impediment to the development of J&K. A more nuanced approach is required for the restoration of permanent peace in the sensitive border State.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

MP's expulsion

It is a shame that an ethics committee mandated to find out whether a Member of Parliament violated ethics as an MP should traverse into her personal matters (Inside pages, "Ethics panel asked Mahua to explain 'nature of friendship' with industrialist", December 11). This is a violation of her privacy as an individual and can only be seen as an attempt to malign her personally.

The perception that she was targeted for her fiery outbursts against the ruling party, is further strengthened by the eventual suspension.

T. Mohan,
Chennai

While the Editorial (December 11) has spoken about the lack of evidence regarding the alleged corruption by the MP, not a word has been said about the impropriety of the MP sharing her login credentials with someone who is out of the parliamentary system, howsoever close he may be to the MP. The person given access to use such a system is morally and ethically under obligation to keep it confidential.

A. Sundararajan,
Chennai

The case has a message for parliamentarians: handle your activities and interactions with care and do not get embroiled in unnecessary controversies

V.J. Lawrence,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Decoding Putin's dramatic visit to the Gulf

Talmiz Ahmad
is a former diplomat

Russian President Vladimir Putin, largely confined to the Kremlin due to western restrictions, on December 6 dramatically set out on whirlwind tours to Abu Dhabi and Riyadh in one day. The next day, he received Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Moscow. And on December 8, Mr. Putin announced that he would be standing for elections in 2024, affirming that he would be leading Russia at least up to 2030 and possibly beyond.

Talks in the Gulf

Mr. Putin's visit to the Gulf was marked by considerable pomp on the part of the hosts and affirmations of mutual goodwill and camaraderie. The UAE ruler, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, spoke of the "importance of strengthening dialogue and cooperation", while Mr. Putin told his Saudi host that "nothing can prevent the development of our friendly relations".

A Russian spokesman described the talks in the Gulf capitals as "a concentrated shot". The agenda was self-evident: continued cooperation among "OPEC +" members on oil policy; exchange of views on the Ukraine and Gaza conflicts; increasing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians trapped in Gaza; and enhancing bilateral-political-economic ties. Cooperation among "OPEC +" countries led by Saudi Arabia and Russia, for instance, has ensured that the agreed production cuts are adhered to and oil prices, much to the U.S.'s chagrin, remain at levels that serve the producers' interests.

Despite their long-standing alliance with the U.S., both the UAE and Saudi Arabia have in recent years been asserting "strategic autonomy" and have prioritised expanding ties with China and Russia. The UAE is now Russia's most important trade partner in the Gulf. Neither the UAE nor Saudi Arabia have supported the U.S.-sponsored sanctions on Russia or criticised the latter for the Ukraine war.

In fact, thousands of Russians have set up alternative homes, businesses, and investments in the UAE. Cooperation is thriving between the two countries in the technology sector. As a result, the West has placed the UAE under scrutiny to ensure that restrictions on export of hi-tech products to Russia are complied with. Russia has also conveyed it is standing by to support Saudi Arabia's civilian nuclear programme at the opportune moment.

Iran and Russia, as targets of increasingly onerous western sanctions, challenge the West's global strategic leadership and seek the realisation of a multipolar world order. Flowing from this, they have built substantial bilateral relations in the energy and military areas: in March this year, the Russian, Chinese and Iranian navies carried out joint exercises in the Gulf of Oman. In November, it was reported that Iran would get Sukhoi Su-35 aircraft from Russia, as also training aircraft and attack helicopters. Iran has boosted Russia's military prowess in Ukraine with supplies of drones, ammunition and body armour.

During Mr. Raisi's visit to Moscow, the two sides had "extremely intensive discussions" covering the Gaza war, Ukraine, and oil prices. Mr. Putin and Mr. Raisi called for an immediate end to Israel's "genocide and crimes against humanity" which, they said, was backed by the U.S. and western powers.

Putin's agenda

Was there something more to Mr. Putin's recent engagements with the major Gulf states? The Reuters correspondents in Moscow have noted that "mystery still surrounds the Kremlin chief's hastily arranged trip" to Abu Dhabi and Riyadh, and wondered "what issue was so important for Putin to make a rare overseas trip". The most obvious response is that the trip itself was a message – Mr. Putin was signalling that Russia was not isolated and that it had some close friends, such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia, that, till recently, had been the U.S.'s closest allies in the region.

But beyond this, Mr. Putin would have had a more ambitious agenda. First, on the basis of Russia's close ties with Iran, he would have told the UAE and the Kingdom that the Gaza war will not spread across the region, conveying the assurance that Iran will restrain the Hezbollah and the Houthis in Yemen in the interests of regional stability.

Second, Mr. Putin would have sought a deeper strategic and political alignment between the Gulf Cooperation Council states and Iran, presenting Russia and China as guarantors of regional peace. In this context, Mr. Putin would have recognised China as the lynchpin in regional politics and, given Russia and China's close alignment on global security issues, projected Russia as complementing China's diplomatic role in the region.

Third, Mr. Putin would have sought the support of his Gulf interlocutors to the consolidation of this regional alignment so that, in the post-Gaza war scenario, they would act unitedly with Russia and China in managing regional political and diplomatic challenges, while excluding the U.S. from this arrangement. This should resonate well with most regional states as, with its unconditional support for Israel, the U.S. has excluded itself as a credible player in West Asia.

Above all, Mr. Putin would have assured his Gulf interlocutors that there would be continuity in Russia's regional approach, by giving them advance notice that he will be seeking re-election in March 2024 and lead Russia at least till the end of this decade.

Mr. Putin's recent interactions with Gulf leaders have brought Russia into the mainstream of West Asian affairs and affirmed that the Sino-Russian alliance will challenge U.S. hegemony and seek to redefine the regional political order.

Putin's recent interactions with Gulf leaders have brought Russia into the mainstream of West Asian affairs and affirmed that the Sino-Russian alliance will challenge U.S. hegemony

A political churning in Punjab

All the major parties — AAP, Congress, Akali Dal, and BJP — are in a state of flux

STATE OF PLAY

Vikas Vasudeva
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The political parties in Punjab are in a state of flux before the 2024 general elections. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the ruling party in the State, seems to be making efforts to establish an identity, while the Congress appears to fear losing its identity. The Shiromani Akali Dal seems to be on a course correction mode, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is trying various ways to make inroads into Punjab.

The AAP is close to completing two years in power in Punjab. The party has been trying to establish a clear identity so that it can expand its presence across the country. It has been riding on the politics of populism even though economists have cautioned that illogical and indiscriminate dolling out of 'freebies' could augment the financial distress of the State. The party campaigned for the recently concluded Assembly elections in three States – Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan – by pushing its 'Punjab governance model'. But the party failed to win a single seat in any of these States, showing that it may need a better strategy to counter the BJP and the Congress. This came as a major setback for the Arvind Kejriwal-led party as the Opposition in Punjab has already been terming the AAP's governance model as 'fake'.

The principal Opposition party in Punjab, the Congress, appears to be grappling with a different issue. It is part of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) with the AAP. The central leadership of both these parties

have joined hands to take on the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in the general elections.

Several senior Congress leaders, including the Leader of the Opposition in Punjab, Partap Singh Bajwa, have been critical of the party's alliance with the AAP and have reportedly been asking the party's high command not to go ahead with it. They feel that if the Congress contests the general elections in alliance with the AAP, it would prove disastrous for the national party in the State. They worry that it would be difficult for the party to face the electorate after the elections given that the Congress is the key Opposition party in Punjab and has been cornering the AAP government on many issues. A few leaders, including former Congress State president Navjot Singh Sidhu, favour the poll alliance saying it is "for a larger cause". Others in the party feel that this could lead to squabbles in the Congress's State unit in the days to come. Interestingly, leaders of AAP's State unit in Punjab have also been opposing a poll alliance with the Congress.

While the widening rift between the INDIA bloc partners continues to be on public display, the Shiromani Akali Dal, a century-old regional party, is looking for ways to course correct. Pushed to the third spot in Punjab in the 2022 Assembly elections, the Akali Dal, which has been instrumental in shaping the politics in the State after independence, is trying to revive itself by narrowing its focus on 'Panthic' (Sikh) issues. This is a clear attempt to garner the support of the Sikh community, of which the party claims to be the sole representative. After ending its coalition with the BJP over the Centre's now-repealed farm laws, the Akali Dal has also been attempting to woo the farming community. The party is at a crossroads after facing a drubbing in the 2022 Assembly elections and putting up a dismal performance in the bypolls in the Sangrur and Jalandhar parliamentary constituencies thereafter.

The BJP, which had faced the wrath of farmers after the Centre passed three farm laws without consulting the community, is trying to make inroads into Punjab by inducting former Congress leaders into its fold and handing them key posts in the State unit. This is said to be upsetting the old guard in the BJP, which will have to handle the situation carefully.

Punjab has seen alliances and coalitions being formed based on strategic advantages. While the INDIA bloc partners – AAP and Congress – have been opposing the alliance in the State, the possibility of an alliance between former partners – the Akali Dal and the BJP – has been denied by party leaders on public platforms. Political observers feel that it may be better for the Congress to stick to its politics and stay solo in Punjab and that the BJP and the Akali Dal should forge an alliance. Else, it could be an easy road for the AAP in the parliamentary polls and in the Assembly polls too.

Surge in illegal Indian migrants crossing into the U.S. from Canada

The number of accompanied and unaccompanied children who illegally cross the U.S. border from India has gone up too

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

A question that was raised in the Rajya Sabha a few days ago has put the spotlight on the issue of Indians illegally entering the United States. In his reply to a question, the Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan, quoted data from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and said that U.S. officials encountered close to 1 lakh illegal Indian migrants just this year. This trend of thousands of Indians trying to enter the U.S. illegally is new; it has been seen in the last four years.

Chart 1 shows the number of Indians attempting to enter the U.S. illegally. A decade ago, a little over 1,500 Indian illegal migrants were stopped by the U.S. border authorities. The number increased marginally in the following years but remained below the 10,000 mark till 2019. But since 2020, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of Indians trying to cross the border illegally with the figure touching 96,917 in 2023.

This surge in the number of illegal migrants gains prominence as the U.S. presidential elections are scheduled next year and illegal border crossings is one of the top issues for U.S. voters. Donald Trump, who is among the leading Republican presidential candidates, has blamed U.S. President Joe Biden for reversing many of his immigration-related policies.

In general, most illegal border crossings are reported from the southwest, i.e., the U.S.-Mexico border. In 2023, over 77% of all illegal migrants entering the U.S. were apprehended from the southwest border with the northern border – along Canada – accounting for roughly 6%. This was true of illegal Indian migrants too, but lately, an increasing number of them are choosing to enter the U.S. through the northern border. The number of undocumented Indians entering through the northern border increased from less than 100 in 2014 to over 30,000 in 2023, almost matching the number of those who tried to enter from the southwest border. **Chart 2** shows the border-wise number of illegal migrants – from India and overall – who are attempting to enter the U.S.

While the number of Indians trying to cross illegally has increased, their share in the total number of such migrants is still nominal. **Chart 3** shows nationality-wise the number of illegal migrants trying to enter the U.S. The larger the circle, the more the number of illegal migrants. In absolute terms, the majority of illegal migrants hail from Mexico. However, the country's share in total illegal migrants has seen a drop in recent years. India, despite the surge, accounts for only 3% of all illegal migrants trying to cross the U.S. border.

The entry of minors and their separation from families has been another thorny issue in the U.S. in recent times. A Trump-era policy had led to the separation of over 5,000 children from their parents who tried to migrate illegally. This is a policy which Mr. Trump still claims deterred many from illegally entering the U.S. While the majority of Indians who were apprehended by the border force are single adults, there has been a spike in the number of minors trying to cross the border. Accompanied Indian minors increased from just nine in 2020 to 261 in 2023. Unaccompanied children or single minors from India who attempted to illegally cross also increased from 219 in 2020 to 730 in 2023. **Table 4** shows a breakdown of the number of illegal Indian immigrants to the U.S. by demography.

Last Friday, a federal judge had prohibited separation of minors from families for eight more years saying it was "simply cruel".

With inputs from AP

In search of the American dream

The data for the charts and the table were sourced from the United States Customs and Border Protection

Illegal crossings: Migrants from India walk into the United States after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona. AFP

Chart 1: The chart shows the number of Indians attempting to enter the United States illegally over the years

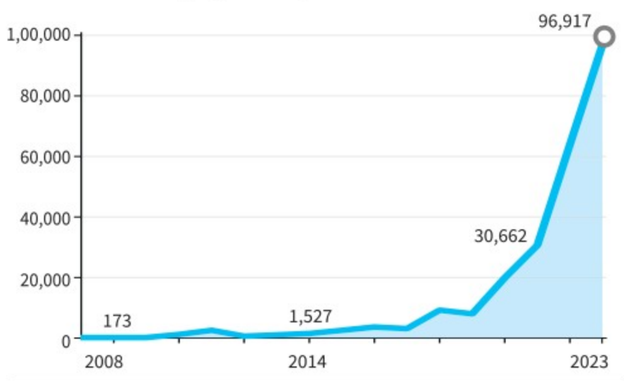

Chart 2: The chart shows the border-wise number of illegal migrants — from India and overall — attempting to enter the U.S.

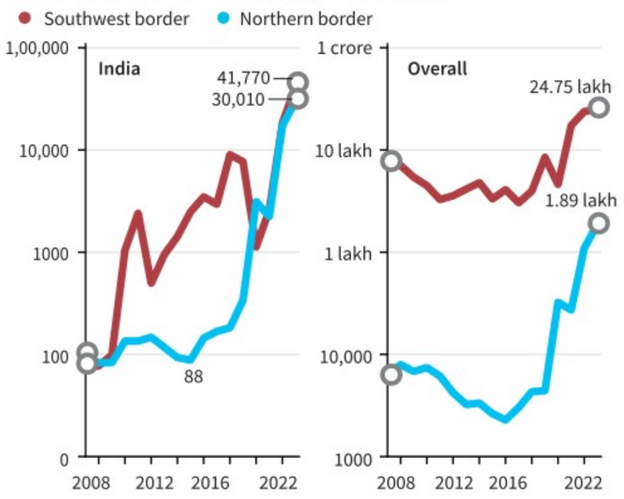

Chart 3: The chart shows nationality-wise number of illegal migrants trying to enter the U.S. The larger the circle, the more the number of migrants

Table 4: The table shows a breakdown of the number of illegal Indian immigrants to the U.S. by demography

Year	Accompanied minors	Individuals in a family unit	Single adults	Unaccompanied children / single minors	Grand Total
2020	9	759	18,896	219	19,883
2021	40	1,225	29,160	237	30,662
2022	202	6,577	56,739	409	63,927
2023	261	12,409	83,517	730	96,917

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 12, 1973

Harrowing experience of 'Sonavati' crew in storm

Madras, Dec. 11: Dazed and shaken, the 28 surviving crew of Sonavati, the merchant vessel which sank in a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal on Saturday, arrived here this morning aboard the m.v. 'Jalamoti', the rescue ship.

The bodies of four of the remaining 10 crew of the cargo ship were brought by the rescue ship. The six others could not be traced. The survivors include Captain N.E. Tawa, Master of the sunken ship.

Immediately on arrival, the agents of the Scindia Steamship Company, owners of Sonavati, made arrangements for medical attention of the survivors. Some of the survivors were admitted in a private hospital.

Captain Tawa, who has 42 years of seafaring experience and has been a Master for 35 years, was really in tears as he recalled their 13-hour long fight with the storm, the worst he had ever seen.

"I have met so many storms but I never experienced such a storm as this one," Capt Tawa said. "Though it was about 200 miles away from my position, I was surprised how it suddenly turned to my area. Even then I tried my best to get out of the storm, but the conditions were so bad that I could not. And the ship's bulwark was parted right from the forward to the raft and water started pouring in. The ship started to list, and I immediately ordered the crew to abandon the ship."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 12, 1923

Reparations

Leafield (Oxford), Dec. 20: Sir John Bradbury, British representative on Reparations Commission, was back in London this morning and had interview with Mr. Baldwin. Newspapers understand that Sir J. Bradbury has succeeded in securing the opinion of a number of financial experts in connection with the two committees which are to be set up into Germany's capacity to pay and that he submitted their names for the Premier's approval. It is stated that the British Government's choice of experts will be reported by Sir J. Bradbury to M. Barthou, President of the Reparation Commission, who will issue formal invitation to the experts selected.

From Page One

SC upholds repeal of J&K's special status

"Even if this court holds that the Proclamation could not have been issued under Article 356, there would be no material relief which can be given in view of the fact that President's Rule was revoked in the State of Jammu and Kashmir on October 31, 2019," Chief Justice Chandrachud justified. In his lead judgment, the Chief Justice, speaking for himself, Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant, said Jammu and Kashmir had divested itself of "any element of sovereignty" after the execution of the Instrument of Accession to the Union in October 1947. Justices Kaul and Sanjiv Khanna concurred in their separate opinions.

"The State of Jammu and Kashmir does not have 'internal sovereignty' distinguishable from the powers and privileges enjoyed by other States in the country," Chief Justice Chandrachud held.

At most, the special privileges and even a separate Constitution for Jammu and Kashmir was merely a "feature of asymmetric federalism and not sovereignty".

'Temporary provision'

The court held that Article 370 was only a "temporary provision" to ease the accession of the then princely State to the Union at a time of internal strife and war.

The power of the Parliament or the President to abrogate Article 370 did not cease to exist with the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir in 1957.

Only the power of the J&K Constituent Assembly to recommend abrogation of Article 370 ceased to exist with its dissolution. The power of the President under Article 370 (3) to abrogate Article 370 had continued to prevail.

"When the Constituent Assembly dissolved, only the transitional power recognised in the proviso of Article 370(3), which empowered the Constituent Assembly to make its recommendations, ceased to exist. It did not affect the power held by the President under Article 370 (3)," Chief Justice Chandrachud clarified.

J&K parties pledge to 'continue their struggle'

Mr. Abdullah posted a video on X (formerly Twitter) after the gates of his house "were chained by the authorities" in Srinagar. "We respect the verdict though we were not expecting such a verdict. We were expecting justice. However, our struggle, which is political and constitutional, will continue. It took the BJP 70 years to do away with Article 370 in spite of previous court judgments referring to Article 370 as permanent. We hope a day will come when our dignity and all that was snatched on August 5, 2019, will be restored. It's a long struggle though," Mr. Abdullah said.

Ms. Mufti, who also accused the administration of putting her under house arrest, released a video from her residence. "The decision is a setback. It does not mark the end of our struggle though. Article 370 being emphasised as temporary was not a defeat for J&K, but rather a challenge to the idea of India. The hand that shook hands with Gandhi's India stands mauled today," Ms. Mufti said. "People of J&K need to unite and not feel disheartened," she added.

CPI (M) leader Tarigami said, "The verdict declares that J&K is like any other State in the Indian Union, thereby depriving it of even the special features granted to the northeastern States and some others under various clauses of Article 371. It evaded going into the merits of downgrading the State of J&K. Strangely, the SC directs the Election Commission of India to hold polls in J&K at the earliest not later than September 30, 2024. The verdict, thus, gives the Central government a long rope to retain control over J&K." Mr. Tarigami also accused the administration of preventing him from leaving his house in Srinagar.

BJP picks Mohan Yadav as Madhya Pradesh CM

The decision was taken in the presence of BJP's Central observers – Haryana CMManohar Lal Khattar, party's OBC Morcha chief K. Lakshman, and party's national secretary Asha Lakra.

Following the announcement, Mr. Yadav, accompanied by other senior leaders met Governor Mangubhai Patel and staked claim to form the government. The swearing-in ceremony is expected to take place after December 13 when the newly elected Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai will take oath. Madhya Pradesh BJP spokesperson Pankaj Chaturvedi said that the final date will be decided based on the confirmation from the Prime Minister.

A three-term MLA from Ujjain-Dakshin, Mr. Yadav will replace Mr. Chouhan as the Chief Minister, who has held the top post since 2005, barring the 15-month period from December 2018 to March 2020 when the Congress was in power in the State. In the recent Assembly elections, Mr. Yadav won from his Ujjain Dakshin seat by 12,941 votes. He had won the Assembly seat for the first time in 2013 and also retained it in 2018.

He was holding the Higher Education portfolio in Mr. Chouhan's incumbent government and has also served as the chairperson of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation from 2011 to 2013, in the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

While Mr. Yadav and Mr. Devda hail from the Malwa-Nimar region, Mr. Shukla hails from the Vindhya region.

Peaceful Kashmir watches verdict with bated breath

Security beefed up, but normal life remains unaffected in Valley with fewer restrictions in place; Opposition leaders allege they had been put under house arrest but L-G refutes their claims

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Kashmir region witnessed unusual silence on Monday, but the day went off peacefully as the Supreme Court upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate provisions of Article 370. Residents watched the court proceedings on mobile phones and television sets.

Life remained unaffected even as people murmured their "discontent" with the verdict. "It is hard to express opinions given the grip of security agencies. There is a price to pay for expressing feelings here. Most people have chosen not to express their thoughts, even if they are unhappy," a local shopkeeper at Lal Chowk said on the condition of anonymity.

Nazneen Jan, a law student, said she had been following the verdict on her mobile phone since morning. "It is a critical juncture in Kashmir's history. I don't there is anyone not interested in it," she said.

Calm and silence: A man feeds pigeons at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Monday as the SC gives verdict on Article 370. AP

Meanwhile, security was stepped up in volatile areas, especially parts of the old city of Srinagar. However, shops remained open and people were seen milling around throughout the day.

Official sources said the footprint of the security forces was increased in Kashmir "to ensure no bid is made to disturb the law and order". Unlike in 2019, when the Centre removed the special status of the State there were no restrictions on the movement of people or suspension of Internet services in the Valley. The infamous barbed wires, used to seal off roads, were absent on most stretches. "There are no restrictions on movement. Examinations scheduled by different public bodies are being held as scheduled, businesses are open and vehicles are plying. The common man's life continues as usual and the police have no intention or instructions to curtail this freedom of movement and activities," a police spokesperson said.

However, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti alleged local shopkeepers were warned of consequences if they failed to keep shops open. Ms. Mufti, along with National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah and CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami, alleged that they were put under house arrest.

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha refuted these allegations. "People are spreading rumours. I am stating this with full responsibility that nobody has been placed under arrest nor has anyone been arrested," he said.

Meanwhile, security agencies, including the Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Army, were directed to avoid convoy movements. The security forces, who accompany special protectees, were asked to avoid any movement in sensitive or volatile localities. Official sources said the police had stepped up monitoring of content posted online. Several netizens faced legal actions in the past few days for their posts.

Shah welcomes SC verdict, terms it a tribute to martyrs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amit Shah

Welcoming the Supreme Court verdict on Article 370, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the decision is a tribute to those who were martyred fighting for "One Constitution, One Flag and One Prime Minister" for the country.

He was replying to a debate in Rajya Sabha on two Bills related to Jammu and Kashmir – the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill. The Upper House passed both Bills, which were passed in Lok Sabha last week. Opposition members walked out, protesting Mr. Shah's remarks against former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Congress party and also for taunting the Opposition over huge seizure of cash from the premises of one of its MPs.

Mr. Shah said it was an important day written in golden letters in the history of Jammu and Kashmir and the country, as the Supreme Court has approved the process of abrogation of provisions of Article 370. He said the Opposition's stand was not for justice for Kashmir but for delaying the implementation of the decision of the Centre. "Our stand on Article 370 was consistent since 1950. The Congress and the communists alleged that we were trying to take political advantage by taking such a stand. But the SC made it clear that Jammu and Kashmir had no special status at all," he said.

"They will not have to take weapons or stones. We will give them laptops and avenues for jobs and education. We are for changing Kashmir's future," he said amid applause by members of treasury benches.

Over 12,000 seats vacant in J&K local bodies since 2018

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Byelections for vacant seats situated in south Kashmir were not held since 2018.

On a day when the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of India (EC) to hold the Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) by September 30 next year, there was no word on the third tier of governance in the Union Territory. More than 700 panchayats, comprising over 12,000 seats, remain vacant since December 2018 in the Union Territory, the last time elections were held for the village bodies. The term of the panchayats ends on January 9, 2024.

It has been over nine years since the last Assembly election was held in J&K and the former State is under Central rule since June 2018 when the alliance between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) collapsed. The government has so far remained evasive on the commitment to conduct the election despite claims that terror incidents have come down in J&K in the past four years.

After the special status of J&K under Article 370 of the Constitution was struck down by Parliament in August 2019, the erstwhile State was bifurcated into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh – the latter without an Assembly. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that a call on restoring the statehood of J&K will be taken after conducting the Assembly election in the Union Territory.

The decision to turn the State into a U.T. was upheld on Monday by the top court, which accepted the assurance of the Centre to restore Statehood "at the earliest".

'No signs of polls'

Anil Sharma, chairman, All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference, pointed out that the term of the current panchayats is set to expire on January 9, 2024, and the elections that have to be announced at least three months prior, are yet to be notified.

The panchayat elections were held in the former State of J&K in 2018 and a total of 27,281 panches and sarpanches were elected. There are 12,776 vacant sarpanch and panch seats in J&K. Each panchayat has a sarpanch and seven ward members.

The byelections for the vacant seats were not held. These seats are mostly vacant in the south Kashmir districts of Kulgam, Shopian, Pulwama and Anantnag as candidates never showed up due to security reasons.

"Earlier, the government went door to door seeking the nomination of candidates to fight the panchayat elections. Many were intimidated by calls given by Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin who threatened to kill people if they participated in elections. But now the situation has changed, the government says there is normalcy and yet there are no signs of panchayat elections," Mr. Sharma said.

The Supreme Court verdict is likely to have a bearing on the ongoing talks between civil society leaders from Ladakh and the Union Home Ministry.

The groups from Leh and Kargil have demanded the restoration of Statehood for Ladakh and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution to get tribal status.

The court on Monday also upheld the carving out of the UT of Ladakh under the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019.

President's actions during State Emergency open to scrutiny: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday held that the declaration of State Emergency under Article 356 and the subsequent actions of the President should have a "reasonable nexus".

If so, the petitioners could question whether the object of the President, while declaring a State Emergency on the ground of failure of constitutional machinery in Jammu and Kashmir in December 2018, was to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcate the full-fledged State to two Union Territories.

The crisis began in Jammu and Kashmir when Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti resigned on June 19, 2018, after the BJP withdrew support. The Governor, the very next day, issued a Proclamation under Section 92 of the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir, which entrusted him with the powers and functions of the State government "in the event of a failure of the constitutional machinery in the State".

On November 21, 2018, the Governor dissolved the Legislative Assembly. Barely a month later, the President invoked Article 356 based on a report from the Governor. The President's rule was extended on July 3, 2019.

New provision

On August 5, 2019, the President issued the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order which applied all the provisions of the Indian Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir and also inserted a new provision, Article 367(4), in the Constitution to replace the expression 'Constituent Assembly of the State' in the proviso to Article 370 (3) with 'Legislative Assembly of the State'. This was done to cross the hurdle of getting a prior recommendation from a non-existent J&K Constituent Assembly to abrogate Article 370.

The very same day saw Parliament abrogate provisions of Article 370 and pass the Bill to reorganise the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The question whether the object of the proclamation of Article 356 in December 2018 has a "reasonable nexus" with the subsequent actions of the President and Parliament in August 2019 lies open. Article 356 was revoked in J&K only in October 2019. The court said actions of the President during the subsistence of a State Emergency were open to judicial scrutiny.

"The court while judicially reviewing the exercise of power can determine if the exercise of the constitutional power of the Legislature of the State by Parliament has a reasonable nexus with the object sought to be achieved by the Proclamation," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed on Monday.

The Chief Justice, in his lead opinion, said the onus is on the person challenging the actions of the President during the Emergency to *prima facie* establish they were a "mala fide or extraneous exercise of power". The Bench laid down that, if a *prima facie* case is made out, the onus would shift from the person complaining to the Centre to justify that the exercise of power had a reasonable nexus with the object of the proclamation of President's Rule under Article 356.

'Giving Article 370 permanent status will undo efforts to fully integrate J&K with the Union'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said an interpretation that Article 370 attained a permanent character after the dissolution of the J&K Constituent Assembly in 1957 would have undone over 70 years of "collaborative" work to integrate the State with the Union of India.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud held that Article 370 was intended to "enhance constitutional integration between the Union and the State of Jammu and Kashmir" and not cause any "disintegration". He said the abrogation of Article 370 only made Jammu and Kashmir on a par with the other States. The entirety of the Indian Constitution would now apply to Jammu and Kashmir.

The argument by the petitioners that Jammu and Kashmir would perpetually retain its special status after the Constituent Assembly dissolved in 1957 without a positive recommendation on whether or not to abrogate Article 370 would only "lead to freezing of the integration contrary to the purpose of introducing the provision".

"If the contention of the petitioners on the interpretation of Article 370 vis-à-vis the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly is accepted then Article 370 (3) would become redundant and the provision would lose its temporary character," the Chief Justice observed. Article 370 (3) allowed the President to issue a public notification, with the prior recommendation of the Constituent Assembly, declaring Article 370 inoperative.

The court has held that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly was not binding on the President. "The President has the power to issue a notification declaring that Article 370 ceases to operate without the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly. The continuous exercise of power under Article 370(1) by the President indicates that the gradual process of constitutional integration was ongoing. The declaration issued by the President under Article 370(3) was a culmination of the process of integration and as such is a valid exercise of power," the Chief Justice said.

SC verdict has 'no legal value', says Pakistan

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Monday said Supreme Court verdict upholding the decision to remove special status of J&K has "no legal value", asserting that the international law does not recognise India's "unilateral and illegal actions".

The Supreme Court unanimously upheld the Union government's decision on Article 370.

"International law doesn't recognise India's unilateral and illegal actions of 5 August 2019. The judicial endorsement by the Indian Supreme Court has no legal value. Kashmiris have an inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the relevant UN SC resolutions," caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani said.

'SC verdict has strengthened the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

On December 11, the honourable Supreme Court of India delivered a historic judgment on the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A). Through its judgment, the court has upheld the sovereignty and integrity of India, something that is cherished by every Indian. The court rightly observed that the decision taken on August 5, 2019 was done with the purpose of enhancing constitutional integration and not disintegration. The court has also recognised the fact that Article 370 was not permanent in nature.

Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh's breathtaking landscapes, serene valleys, and majestic mountains have captivated the hearts of poets, artists, and adventurers for generations. It is a place where the sublime meets the extraordinary, where the Himalayas reach for the sky, and where the pristine waters of its lakes and rivers mirror the heavens. But, for the past seven decades, these places have witnessed the worst form of violence and instability, something which the wonderful people never deserved.

Confused society

Unfortunately, due to centuries of colonisation, most notably economic and mental subjugation, we became a confused society of sorts. Rather than taking a clear position on very basic things, we allowed duality, leading to confusion. Sadly, Jammu and Kashmir became a big victim of such a mindset. At the time of Independence, we had a choice of making a fresh start for national integration. Instead, we decided to continue with the confused-society approach even if it meant ignoring the long-term national interests.

I have had the opportunity of being connected with the Jammu and Kashmir *Andolan* from a very early part of my life. I belong to an ideological framework where Jammu and Kashmir was not merely a political issue. But, it was about addressing the aspirations of society. Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee held an important portfolio in the Nehru Cabinet and could have remained in government for a long time. Yet, he quit the Cabinet over the Kashmir issue and preferred the tough road ahead, even if it meant paying with his life. His efforts and sacrifice led to crores of Indians becoming emotionally attached with the Kashmir issue. Years later, Atalji, at a public meeting in Srinagar, gave the powerful message of *Insaniyat*, *Jamhooriyat*, and *Kashmiriyat*, which has always been a source of great inspiration.

It was always my firm belief that what had happened in Jammu and Kashmir was a great betrayal – to our nation and to the people living there. It was also my strong desire to do whatever I can to remove this blot, this injustice done to the people. I have always wanted to work to alleviate the suffering of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In very basic words, Articles 370 and 35(A) were like major obstacles. It seemed like an unbreakable wall and the sufferers were the poor and downtrodden. Articles 370 and 35(A) ensured that the people of Jammu and Kashmir never got the rights and development that the rest of their fellow Indians got. Due to these Articles, a distance was created between people belonging to the same nation. Due to this distance, many people from our nation who wanted to work to solve the problems of Jammu and Kashmir were unable to do so even if they clearly felt the pain of the people there.

As a *karyakarta* who has seen the issue closely over the past several decades, I had a nuanced understanding of the specifics and the complexities of the issue. Yet, I was crystal clear about one thing – that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want development and they want to contribute to the development of India based on their strengths and skills. They also want a better quality of life for their children, a life free from violence and uncertainty.

Thus, while serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir, we gave primacy to three pillars – understanding of the citizens' concerns, building trust through supportive actions, and prioritising development, development, and more development.

> Earlier, there was a question mark on status of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. Now, there are only exclamation marks about record growth, record development, and record tourist inflow

In 2014, just after we assumed office, deadly floods struck Jammu and Kashmir, with a lot of damage in the Kashmir Valley. In September 2014, I went to Srinagar to assess the situation and also announced ₹1,000 crore as a special assistance for rehabilitation, signalling our government's commitment to supporting the people during crises. I had the opportunity to meet people from different walks of life, and there was one common thread in these interactions – the people not only wanted development but they also wanted freedom from the rampant corruption prevailing for decades. The same year, I decided not to mark Deepavali in remembrance of those we lost in Jammu and Kashmir. I also decided to be in Jammu and Kashmir on Deepavali day.

In order to further strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's development journey, we decided that our government Ministers would frequently go there and interact with people directly. These frequent visits also played a crucial role in building goodwill in Jammu and Kashmir. From May 2014 to March 2019, over 150 ministerial visits took place. This is a record in itself. The special package of 2015 was a significant step in addressing the developmental needs of Jammu and Kashmir. It contained initiatives for infrastructure development, job creation, tourism promotion, and support to the handicraft industry.

We harnessed the power of sports in Jammu and Kashmir, recognising its potential to ignite the dreams of the youth. Through sporting initiatives, we witnessed the transformational impact of athletic pursuits on their aspirations and futures. Sporting venues were upgraded, training programmes were organised, and coaches were made available. One of the most unique things was to encourage the setting up of local football clubs. The results were outstanding. The name of the talented footballer Afshan Ashiq comes to my mind. In December 2014, she was part of a stone-pelting group in Srinagar but with the right encouragement she turned to football. She was sent for training and excelled in the game. I recall interacting with her at one of the Fit India Dialogues, where I said it's time to move over "Bend it like Beckham" because it is now "Ace it like Afshan". Other youngsters began to shine in kickboxing, karate, and more.

Panchayat polls

The panchayat polls were also a watershed moment in the region's quest for all-round development. Once again, we were faced with a choice of either remaining in power or standing by our principles – the choice was never tough and we let go of a government but preferred that the ideals that we stand for, the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are given top priority. The success of panchayat polls indicated the democratic nature of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. My mind went back to an interaction I had with *pradhans* from the villages. Among other issues, I made a request to them – that at no point must schools be burnt and that must be ensured. I was delighted to see that this was adhered to. After all, if schools are burnt, the biggest sufferers are the small children.

The historic day of August 5 is etched in the hearts and minds of every Indian. Our Parliament passed the historic decision to abrogate Article 370. Since then, much has changed in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. The judicial court verdict came in December 2023 but seeing the wave of development across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, the people's court has given a resounding thumbs up to Parliament's decision of abolishing Articles 370 and 35(A) for four years now.

At a political level, the past four years have been marked with a renewed faith in grassroots democracy. The women, tribal people, SCs, STs, and the marginalised sections of society were not getting their due. At the same time, the aspirations of Ladakh were totally ignored. August 5, 2019 changed all that. All Central laws now apply without fear or favour. Representation has also got more widespread – a three-tier Panchayati Raj system is in place, BDC elections have been held, and refugee communities who were all but forgotten have begun to enjoy the fruits of development.

Key Central government schemes have attained saturation levels, thus covering all sections of society. These include the Saubhagya and Ujjwala schemes.

Strides have been made in housing, tap water connection, and financial inclusion. Healthcare, otherwise a major challenge for the people, has witnessed upgradation of infrastructure. All the villages achieved ODF-plus status. Government vacancies, which were otherwise a den of corruption and favouritism, have been filled in a transparent and process-driven manner. Other indicators like IMR have shown betterment.

The boost to infrastructure and tourism has been for everyone to see. The credit for this naturally goes to the resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have shown time and again that they want only development and are willing to be drivers of this positive change. Earlier, there was a question mark on the status of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh. Now, there are only exclamation marks about record growth, record development, and record tourist inflow.

In its verdict on December 11, the Supreme Court has strengthened the spirit of *Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat* – it has reminded us that what defines us are the bonds of unity and a shared commitment to good governance. Today, every child born in Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh is born with a clean canvas, where he or she can paint a future full of vibrant aspirations. Today, the dreams of the people are no longer prisoners of the past but are possibilities of the future. After all, development, democracy, and dignity have replaced disillusionment, disappointment and despondency.

On the draw

SC verdict will strengthen national unity, says RSS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision upholding the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370.

"The Sangh has been opposing Article 370 since beginning and put forth the same through several resolutions it has passed and active participation in all the movements associated with the issue. This decision will contribute further in strengthening of national unity. The people of J&K have finally got freedom from the injustice they were subjected to for years due to Article 370," RSS publicity in-charge Sunil Ambekar said.

27 resolutions

Since 1950, when Article 370 was inserted in the Constitution, the RSS has passed 27 resolutions on the issue, mostly related to Article 370.

In each resolution, the Sangh has maintained that the Article engendered "disintegration" of the country.

Manmohan Vaidya, joint general secretary of RSS, had written in one of his articles in 2019 that the RSS, for the first time in 1953, had passed a resolution and supported the movement led by J&K Praja Parishad for "complete integration of J&K State with India".

Resolutions against the special status for Kashmir were passed in 1984, 1986, 1990, 1997, 2002, 2004, and many other occasions.

Justice Kaul calls for impartial 'Truth and Reconciliation' panel

Judge says it should investigate and report on violation of human rights perpetrated by both state and non-state actors in Jammu and Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, one of the five judges on the Bench which upheld the Centre's decision on Article 370, on Monday recommended the setting up of an "impartial Truth and Reconciliation Commission" to investigate and report on the violation of human rights perpetrated by both state and non-state actors in Jammu and Kashmir since the 1980s and recommend measures for reconciliation.

Justice Kaul suggested the setting up of the commission expediently, "before memory escapes".

"The exercise should be time-bound. There is already an entire generation of youth that has grown up with feelings of distrust and it is to them that we owe the greatest duty of reparation," the judge observed.

He said the government should, considering the significance of the matter and the sensitivities involved, must devise the manner in which the commission should be set up and the "best way forward" for it.

Road ahead: A man making a painting welcoming the Supreme Court's verdict on Article 370, in Mumbai on Monday. ANI

'Humanised process'

Justice Kaul, however, added a word of caution that the commission, once constituted, should not turn into a criminal court and must follow a "humanised and personalised process enabling people to share what they have been through uninhibitedly".

"It should be based on dialogue, allowing for different viewpoints and inputs from all sides," he said.

The judge prefaced his recommendation for a commission by narrating about the several years of conflict in the Valley, originating with its invasion in 1947, followed by insurgency, and the migration of one part of the population from the erstwhile State in 1989-90. "It is my sincere hope that much will be achieved when Kashmiris open their hearts to embracing the past and facilitate the people who were compelled to migrate to come back with dignity," Justice Kaul said.

Restore Statehood, conduct election in J&K, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

P. Chidambaram

The Congress on Monday said the debate on the abrogation of special status for Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 has ended as the Supreme Court verdict is now the law, but the party demanded immediate restoration of Statehood and holding of Assembly election there.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Singhvi, addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters, said the judgment had decided many issues but left some important issues open.

"It [the judgment] has also held as *ultra vires* how Article 367 was invoked to amend part of Article 370. Hence the judgment needs careful study.... *Prima facie*, we respectfully disagree with the judgment on how Article 370 was abrogated," Mr. Chidambaram said.

"We reiterate the Congress Working Committee resolution dated August 6, 2019, that Article 370 deserved to be honoured until it was amended strictly in accordance with the Constitution," he added.

The former Union Minister also expressed disappointment that the Supreme Court did not decide on the issue of "dismembering the State and reducing its status to two Union Territories".

'Won't seek review'

The Congress leaders also asserted that the party would neither seek restoration of the earlier provisions under Article 370 nor will it seek a judicial review. "Today, this debate has ended. You are forgetting one thing. The Congress is not a party in any way in these petitions that it will file any review petition... So, this decision is final and there has never been any such agenda or announcement of ours that we will reconsider it," Mr. Singhvi said.

"Democracy, and not autocracy, is the demand of every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. Why is the BJP afraid of an elected government," he asked and urged the government to hold election immediately.

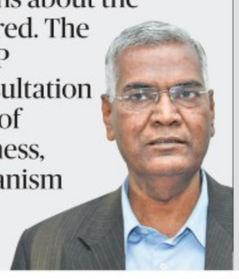
"We welcome the verdict of the SC. We also welcome the SC's directives to conduct elections by next September. We hope that elections are held soon and people get to vote in a free atmosphere

UDDHAV THACKERAY
Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

"Our govt., under Modi has brought J&K into the mainstream, for which our millions of *karyakartas* extend their heartfelt gratitude to Modi*ji*. Since the abrogation of Article 370, J&K and Ladakh have witnessed a new dawn of peace

J.P. NADDA
BJP national president

"While determining the legality of the abrogation of Article 370, certain crucial questions about the issue remain unanswered. The haste on part of the BJP government, zero consultation with people or parties of J&K and the stubbornness, all smell of authoritarianism



D. RAJA
CPI general secretary

"It is clear that this verdict has serious implications for the federal structure of our Constitution and is inclined to strengthen a unitary state structure in the name of 'integration' and by invoking 'national security'

SITARAM YECHURY
CPI(M) general secretary

"If the Supreme Court had taken a decision before it would have been better, but better late than never. We want the government to hold elections on the directive of the Supreme Court, and Statehood should be restored

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY
Congress leader

INBRIEF

Mahua Moitra moves SC challenging her expulsion

Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Mahua Moitra moved the Supreme Court on Monday challenging her expulsion from the Lok Sabha, after the House adopted the report of its ethics committee that held her guilty of accepting gifts and illegal gratification from a businessman to further his interest. Reacting sharply to her expulsion, Ms. Moitra had equated the action with hanging by a "kangaroo court" and alleged that a Parliamentary panel was being weaponised by the government to force the Opposition into submission. PTI

BJP raises cash seizure from company linked to Cong. MP

The recovery of the huge amount of cash from a distillery company linked to Congress' Jharkhand Rajya Sabha MP Dhiraj Prasad Sahu and the threat posed by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun who has been designated a terrorist by India, were among the key issues raised during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Monday. BJP MP from Ranchi, Sanjay Seth, raised the issue and sought a reply from the Congress. Other BJP MPs sitting next to him displayed newspapers with reports of the recovery of cash to drive home their point.

A vocal supporter of Hindutva politics, Mohan Yadav is BJP's OBC trump card

The 58-year-old politician is considered to be close to the RSS; he cut his teeth in student politics and rose through the ranks to become the Higher Education Minister in the outgoing Chouhan government; he is seen as the BJP's response to the INDIA bloc, which has two Yadav-led parties

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

"Who is Mohan Yadav?" This was the question among hundreds of mediapersons and BJP supporters who had gathered outside the party's Madhya Pradesh headquarters in Bhopal after the news came out that he had been chosen as the next Chief Minister of the State.

The decision came as a surprise for many who had long speculated that if the outgoing Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, is not repeated, the BJP would look at its other options – former Union Ministers Prahlad Singh Patel and Narendra Singh Tomar, BJP national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and the party's State unit chief V. D. Sharma.

Mr. Yadav, 58, himself told the media that he was surprised when his name was proposed during the Legislature Party meeting.

A prominent leader from the Other Backward Classes, Mr. Yadav is seen as the BJP's response to the INDIA bloc, which has two Yadav-led parties namely the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh and the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar. Political observers say the choice of Mr. Yadav as the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister is expected to benefit the BJP in the neighbouring States.

Over 52% of the population in Madhya Pradesh belong to the Other Backward Classes and the group largely supported the BJP in the Assembly election held in November. The party won 163 out of 230 seats in the State.

A vocal supporter of Hindutva politics, Mr. Yadav hails from Ujjain, where the ancient Mahakal temple is situated. His elevation to the top post in the State is also being seen by observers as a push to the BJP's Hindutva ideology ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

Next chapter: Shivraj Singh Chouhan greets Mohan Yadav during the BJP's Legislature Party meeting in Bhopal on Monday. ANI

During the Assembly election campaign, Mr. Yadav was also seen delivering statements that had made controversy in the local media. In one of his speeches, he said, "You Congressmen and your supporters will not be found anywhere. What is your *aukat* [status]? You will be buried here only."

Born on March 25, 1965, Mr. Yadav is a three-time MLA from Ujjain South Assembly constituency. He first won from the seat in 2013.

He was the Higher Education Minister in the outgoing Chouhan government and also served as the chairperson of the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation from 2011 to 2013, in the rank of a Cabinet Minister. Mr. Yadav holds a Ph.D. besides LLB and MBA degrees.

According to his profile on X , Mr. Yadav is the president of the Madhya Pradesh Wrestling Association and the vice-president of the Madhya Pradesh Olympic Association. He has also been a wrestler at the local level himself and is fondly called "Mohan *Pehalwan*" by his supporters. A video of him swinging two swords with both hands has gone viral on social media.

The 58-year-old Chief Minister-designate, who comes from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) background, began his political career in 1982 with student politics as he was elected the joint secretary of the students union of Madhav Vigyan Mahavidyalay in Ujjain and the president in 1984.

In 1984, he became the Ujjain city secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the students wing of the RSS, followed by State secretary of the ABVP in 1989-90 and the national secretary of the students body in 1991-92.

He was inducted into the BJP's State working committee in 2004. The same year, he was also made the chairperson of the Ujjain Development Board, in the capacity of a State Minister.

In 2021, Mr. Yadav had announced to include the lessons of Hindu epic '*Ramcharitmanas*' as an elective (optional) subject under the philosophy course for first-year undergraduate students (BA). He had also moved a proposal to rename the Hindi nomenclature of the Vice-Chancellor's post in State universities from *Kulpati* to *Kulguru*.

Mr. Yadav is the first leader to become Chief Minister from Ujjain where Prime Minister Narendra Modi had dedicated the newly constructed Mahakal Lok corridor last year.

He has also been awarded by the President of India in 2011-12 and 2012-13 for promoting tourism in the State.

(With PTI inputs)

New criminal Bills with key changes set to be rolled out

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed members of the Lok Sabha on Monday that the three criminal codes that seek to replace the British-era laws will be withdrawn and replaced with three new Bills after incorporating the changes recommended by a parliamentary committee.

The three Bills, along with two other Bills on reservation for women in Assemblies of Union Territories of J&K and Puducherry, are expected to be tabled in the Lok Sabha by Mr. Shah on Tuesday.

The three criminal codes – Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023, and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023 – that sought to replace the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, Indian Penal Code, 1860, and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, were introduced in the Parliament on August 11.

'Tribunals identified 32,381 persons as foreigners in Assam'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

3,34,966 cases were disposed of by 100 FTs operational in Assam till October 31, the Centre says

The Union government submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court on Monday stating that 32,381 people were "detected to be foreigners" by Foreigners Tribunals (FTs) in Assam since 1966.

Replying to a question on the number of persons in Assam who were granted citizenship between the years 1966-1971 under Section 6A (2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, the government said 17,861 persons registered with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) till October 31 this year. The Centre said 3,34,966 cases were disposed of by 100 FTs operational in Assam till October 31, and 97,714 cases were pending. It said that till December 1,8,461 cases arising out of FTs were pending before the Gauhati High Court.

Section 6A is a special provision inserted into the 1955 Act in furtherance of a Memorandum of Settlement, called the 'Assam Accord', signed on August 15, 1985, by the then Rajiv Gandhi government with the leaders of the Assam Movement to preserve the Assamese culture.

The government's affidavit said "it is not possible to collect accurate data of illegal migrants living in various parts of the country" as such foreign nationals enter the country in a "surreptitious and clandestine manner."

The affidavit filed by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla said that due to the "non-cooperation" of the West Bengal government, the timely completion of fencing, a vital national security project, along the Bangladesh border had been pending.

Centre blames traders for rise in onion prices, says protests are 'sponsored'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Cost-conscious: A young girl sorting onions at a farm in Bub Ka Hera village in Alwar district of Rajasthan. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Even as protests by farmers and traders continued in Maharashtra over the ban on onion exports, the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry said on Monday that the steps it had taken were bringing results, with the prices of the kitchen staple coming down in both retail and wholesale markets.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh dubbed the protests by farmers as "sponsored" by traders and said no onion farmer would face loss as the Centre had stepped up procurement of the essential vegetable in Maharashtra and other States. He said a section of traders were trying to take the advantage of delay in *kharif* harvest and timely intervention helped in reducing the price. "The prices might have crossed ₹100 for a kg had the government not intervened on time," he said.

He said the export of onions was prohibited from December 8 till March next year to ensure availability for domestic consumers at affordable prices.

"The government took the decision taking into account delay in *Kharif* arrival, the quantity of onion exported and global situation such as trade and non-trade restrictions imposed by major suppliers such as Turkey, Egypt and Iran. To ensure that farmers are not adversely affected, the government is continuously procuring onions from the farmers under the Price Stabilisation Fund," the senior official said. He added that as a message to the market, the Centre increased the buffer stock and directed the cooperative agencies to procure seven lakh tonnes of onion.

As a result, the all-India average retail price for onion has been brought down from ₹59.9 per kg on November 17 to ₹56.8 per kg on December 8, the official claimed.

Centre blocking funds for States not ruled by BJP, says Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Members of Parliament from INDIA bloc parties staged a walkout in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, alleging that the Union government is imposing an "economic blockade" on the non-BJP-ruled States by withholding the central funds allocated to different schemes using various excuses. The MPs from the Congress, Trinamool Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Janata Dal (United), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Communist Party of India (Marxist), CPI and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), among others, staged the walkout.

During the Zero Hour, Aam Aadmi Party MP Sandeep Pathak raised the issue of ₹8,000 crores worth of funds under various schemes including the National Health Mission (NHM) that has been withheld by the centre raising numerous objections. He said over ₹5,000 crore of Rural Development Fund has not been released because the previous Congress government diverted the funds.

The AAP government runs Aam Aadmi Clinic, which Mr. Pathak claims is run by the Punjab government's funds and only the other expenses are borne by the NHM funds.

"At least you bestowed the GST funds, we are very grateful. And even if you didn't give us that, what possibly could we have done. We would have probably approached the Supreme Court, which is already inundated with several cases," he said.

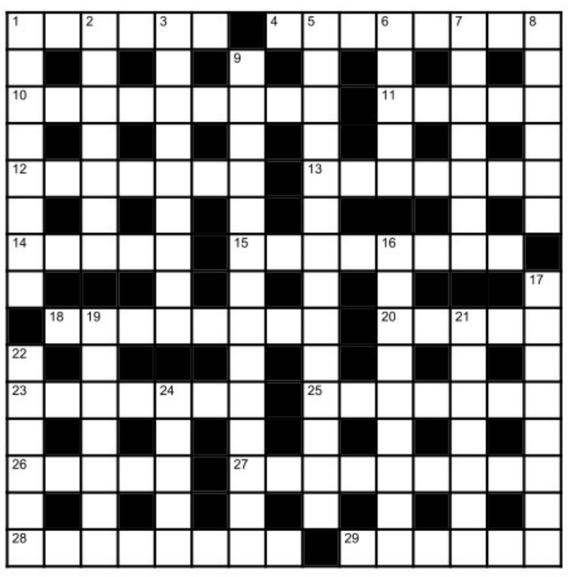
Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya took umbrage to Mr. Pathak's comments, saying that the government respects the federal structure and funds are withheld only when the States do not follow the laid down guidelines.

TH CROSSWORD + 14043

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 One always fresh and smart (6)
4 Key slang for "seafood" (8)
10 Doc finally overwhelmed by anger after opening cavity (9)
11 So hot again…removing shorts, stripped completely (5)
12 Last-minute changes to make ATM device (7)
13 Graceful angel is so merciful at heart (7)
14 More time to pack ten tonnes (5)
15 Routine starting to debug anomalous Y-O-Y data (3-2-3)
18 Short article about unfinished, cryptic, enigmatic painting (8)
20 Host KrisKross returns to make an observation to the audience (5)
23 Successful company - one contracting wheat possibly (7)
25 Unwanted, nonstop jabbers? (7)
26 Lived in degenerate retro bar (5)
27 Laurel, say, always leading comic genre (9)
28 Law has reviewed evidence in handbag (8)
29 Commands boy to leave frontiers (6)

Down

1 Enjoyed preserved painting belonging to you and me (8)
2 Most foul smell, primarily in dirty tanker (7)
3 Cheat using comedian's instrument (4,5)
5 Untrue, stale story by subordinate to win praise that should be mine (5,2,7)
6 Losing final seconds in a game is painful (5)
7 A long, lively party inside boat (7)
8 Not those Sunday papers (6)
9 Polluted Delhi can really do without pure air? Eventually, it's unlikely to happen (1,4,3,2,4)
16 Go around cycling? Agree excitedly, being very enthusiastic (9)
17 Space organization involved in action, uplifting farmers (8)
19 Plan to wear torn dress (7)
21 Old king having support for educational institution (7)
22 Star very angry about part (6)
24 Choose one ultimately classic visual (5)

SUDOKU

	1			4	7	2		
			8				4	7
8					5			
	6					9	5	2
4	3	7					6	
			9					3
6	9				8			
		1	7	6			2	

No.SS6005 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	8	2	6	4	1	5	9
4	2	6	5	1	9	3	8	7
9	1	5	7	3	8	6	2	4
7	4	3	1	8	5	9	6	2
5	9	1	6	7	2	8	4	3
8	6	2	4	9	3	7	1	5
2	8	7	3	5	1	4	9	6
1	3	4	9	2	6	5	7	8
6	5	9	8	4	7	2	3	1

FAITH

Importance of Vedas

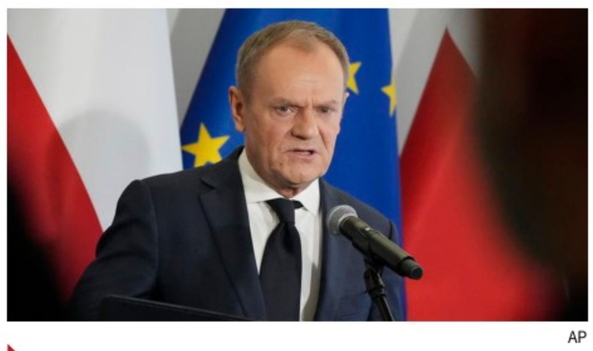
Vedas prescribe the ways and means to gain comforts and material benefits. They also guide the path of attaining salvation. Vedas are considered more than thousands of parents for jivas. Valayapettai Sri Ramachariar said in a discourse that Arjuna got confused and raised a question to Lord Krishna: "If we don't follow the Vedas, would it not lead to incurring sins as Vedas teach both for material comforts and moksha, which are like opposites". The Lord replied that Vedas contained information meant to all enticed with the three gunas (*sattva, rajas* and *thamas*). Vedas have such persons in mind while prescribing desire-oriented rituals (*Kamyakarma*).

But one must obtain abundant *sattva* guna to attain moksha. Be free from all the characteristics of worldly life. A reservoir full of water is meant for many purposes, including for drinking and irrigation. What use does a thirsty person have out of it except fetching enough water to quench his thirst? Similarly, a person who aspires for release can take only to that extent of the Vedas and not anything else. Various medicines are available for different patients, but a doctor prescribes only a particular drug to a patient suited to his ailments.

Obtaining what we yearned for is called "*Yogam*". Preserving what we have got is called "*Kshemam*".

WARSAW

Poland's parliament elects Donald Tusk as Prime Minister



AP

Poland's parliament elected centrist party leader Donald Tusk as Prime Minister, paving the way for a new pro-EU government after eight years of stormy conservative rule. Tusk becomes PM two months after a national election that was won by a coalition of parties ranging from left-wing to moderate conservative. AP

SYDNEY

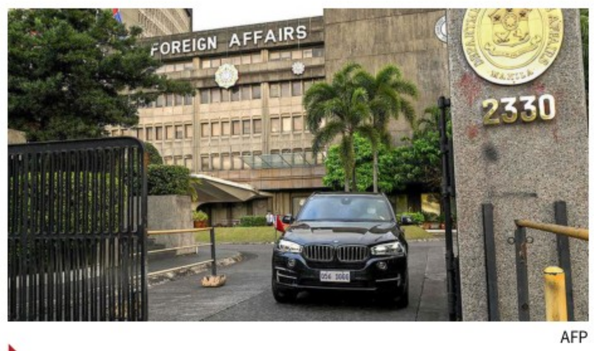
Papua New Guinea will not be 'reckless' with China loans: PM

AFP

Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister James Marape has promised to tread carefully with Belt and Road funding from China, saying he would not be "reckless" with foreign loans. China and the U.S. are jockeying for influence in the South Pacific state, which sits atop deposits of gas and minerals and peers over key shipping lanes. AFP

MANILA

Philippines summons Chinese envoy over maritime incidents



AFP

The Philippines said it had summoned China's envoy on Monday and flagged the possibility of expelling him following the most tense confrontations between the countries' vessels in years at flashpoint reefs in the disputed South China Sea. Multiple indents involving both countries's vessels were reported in the past few days. AFP

SEOUL

U.S. F-16 fighter jet crashes in S. Korea during training exercise

AP

A U.S. F-16 fighter jet crashed in South Korea during a routine training exercise after experiencing "an in-flight emergency" and the pilot had been rescued. The incident involving an F-16 Fighting Falcon assigned to the 8th Fighter Wing happened early on Monday over the Yellow Sea, the U.S. Air Force said in a statement. AFP

Palestinians go on strike over Gaza onslaught

Agence France-Presse
RAMALLAH

Shops, schools and government offices shut across the occupied West Bank and annexed east Jerusalem on Monday as Palestinians staged a general strike protesting against Israel's relentless onslaught in the Gaza Strip.

In Lebanon, public institutions, banks, schools and universities closed after the government decided on a nationwide strike in solidarity with Gaza.

The stoppage was also observed in Istanbul's western Esenyurt district, where many businesses are owned by residents from the Palestinian territories, Syria, Yemen and Iran.

Civilians caught in crossfire as battle rages in Gaza's cities

Fighting is underway between Israel and Hamas extremists in Khan Younis and Gaza City; with very little aid allowed into Gaza, Palestinians face severe shortages of food, water and other goods

Associated Press
RAFAH

Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants in Gaza's two largest cities on Monday, with civilians still trapped in the fighting even after hundreds of thousands have fled to other parts of the besieged territory.

Israel has pledged to keep fighting until it removes Hamas from power, dismantles its military capabilities and returns all of the hostages taken by militants during Hamas' October 7 surprise attack into Israel that ignited the war.

Residents said there was heavy fighting in and around the southern city of Khan Younis, where Israeli ground forces opened a new line of attack last week, and battles were still underway in parts of Gaza City and the urban Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, where large areas have been reduced to rubble.

Constant vigil: Israeli Army soldiers keeping position on a hill overlooking northern Gaza on Monday. AFP

Hamas is believed to have suffered heavy losses, but on Monday it fired a barrage of rockets that set off sirens in Tel Aviv.

With very little aid allowed into Gaza, Palestinians face severe shortages of food, water and other basic goods. Some openly worry that Palestinians will be forced out of the territory altogether in a repeat of the mass exodus from what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation.

The Palestinian death toll in Gaza has surpassed 17,900, the majority women and children, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-controlled territory.

U.K. PM Rishi Sunak defends his government's handling of pandemic, restaurant scheme

Reuters
LONDON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defended Britain's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic on Monday, telling an official inquiry he did not recognise testimony describing a dysfunctional government and saying his hospitality scheme was supported at the time.

The inquiry is examining Britain's response to the pandemic which killed more than 2,30,000 people in the country. It has heard that the government of then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson was gripped by infighting and incompetence, and unable to make a decision.

Mr. Sunak was a relatively unknown politician when he was promoted to Finance Minister on the eve of the pandemic, appearing to be sure-footed as he set out hundreds of billions of pounds of support to keep companies and livelihoods afloat.

Rishi Sunak

He has come under fire during the inquiry so far from other witnesses over his "Eat out to help out" subsidised meal scheme, which encouraged people to visit restaurants and pubs in August 2020.

Some scientists have questioned whether Mr. Sunak's policy may have contributed to a wave of infections, but Mr. Sunak said scientists and other Ministers did not raise any objections during meetings in the month leading up to the scheme.

He said that "Eat out to help out" took place within guidelines for the safe reopening of hospitality.

"My primary concern was protecting millions of jobs of particularly vulnerable people who worked in this industry (hospitality)," Mr. Sunak told the inquiry.

Draft climate deal fails to 'phase out' fossil fuel

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

After a week of expectations that negotiators at the ongoing climate talks in Dubai might agree to a 'phase out' of fossil fuels, the phrase has been edited out, according to the latest draft made public late in the evening on Monday. However, the text has emplyed stronger language against coal, with a recommendation to "rapidly phase down unabated coal," that countries such as India, Indonesia and China – major consumers of coal power and developing countries at that – could find objectionable.

Observers of COP-28 say that even a mention of the need to do away with fossil fuels in the final text, which is expected today, would be a significant step towards bringing parity between coal, oil and gas, and the need to do away with them to keep temperature increase below 1.5°C by the end of the century.

On fossil fuels, the text now exhorts countries to "reduce both consumption and production of fossil fuels, in a just, orderly and equitable manner so as to achieve net zero by, before, or around 2050 in keeping with the science."

Burning of fossil fuel contributes nearly 80% of the greenhouse gas emissions of which coal makes up about 40% and oil and gas collectively constitute the rest. Humanity's best chance at keeping global temperature-increase below 1.5°C is by cutting emissions down to 43% of the 2019 levels by 2030. However, the reality is that emissions are increasing year on year and despite pledges by countries to spruce up their renewable energy infrastructure.

"The latest Global Stocktake text on fossil fuels represents a significant regression from previous versions. It has dropped explicit language on the phasing out fossil fuels, opting instead for a vague commitment to 'reduce both consumption and production' by 2050. This is a clear indication of the fossil fuel industry's lobbying power, influencing global policies to favour prolonged fossil fuel use," said Harjeet Singh, Head – Global Political Strategy, Climate Action Network International.

Others say that the venue of the conference, in a petrostate, has influenced the wording of the text. "On fossil fuels this text lays the ground for change. It is good to recognise this is the first COP where the word fossil fuel is included in the draft decision. This is the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era. It appears to be a compromise between Saudi Arabia who didn't want any mention of fossil fuels and the progressive countries who called for an outright fossil fuel phase out," said Mohamed Adow, Director Powershift Africa.

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Re - TENDER NOTICE

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Development of Sabarimala Greenfield International Airport at Erumeli in Kottayam District, Kerala State, India.

Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Limited (KSIDC), the premier industrial and investment facilitation & promotion agency of Government of Kerala, invites **Proposals** from competent and eligible entities who fulfil the eligibility criteria prescribed in the RFP document, for **Selection as Consultant for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Development of Sabarimala Greenfield International Airport at Kottayam, Kerala State, India.**

Eligible bidders can submit their responses to the RFP through the e-TENDER portal of Government of Kerala **(https://etenders.kerala.gov.in) on or before 15th January 2024, 15.00 hrs.**

Thiruvananthapuram **Sd/-**
11.12.2023 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

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(An autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Government of India)
पो० ऑ० न्यू फॉरेस्ट, देहरादून– 248006 (उत्तराखण्ड)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248 006 (Uttarakhand)

विज्ञप्ति संख्या 06 / उपमहानिदेशक (शिक्षा) / 2023–भा.वा.अ.शि.प.
Advertisement No. 06/DDG(Edu)/2023-ICFRE

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Applications are invited for filling up of the post of Deputy Director General (Education) in pay Level 15 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix on deputation basis in the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun

उपरोक्त पद हेतु इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी भा०वा०अ०शि०प० की वेबसाइट **http://www.icfre.org** में दिये गये विस्तृत विज्ञापन के अनुसार आवेदन कर सकते है। आवेदन प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथी 30.01.2024 है।

The interested candidates may apply for the above said post as per detailed advertisement available at ICFRE website **http://www.icfre.org**. The last date of receipt of applications is 30.01.2024.

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Secretary, ICFRE

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T.N. Marg, Lalbagh, Lucknow, Ph.: 0522-2202570, Fax: 0522-2622440, email: nnlko@up.nic.in

Tender Notice No.: D/782/EE/23 **Date: 11.12.2023**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (SECOND CALL)

Online bids are invited from bidders for the following work as listed below and will be received online on the website **https://etender.up.nic.in** as per time schedule (Key dates) in the notice published on the above website.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Tender Fee Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Tender Period Years
1	Selection of Contractor for "Door-to-Door Collection, Transfer and Secondary Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste, Road/Street Sweeping and transportation of sweeping Waste, Drain cleaning & transportation of silt, Collection & Transportation of Horticulture Waste and Collection & Storage of Domestic Hazardous Waste, in Zone 1, 4, 7 (Package 1) to designated processing facility/disposal site/collection centres."	Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) + GST	Rs. 2,04,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Four Lakhs Only)	10 Years Extendable up to 5 Years
2	Selection of Contractor for "Door-to-Door Collection, Transfer and Secondary Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste, Road/Street Sweeping and transportation of sweeping Waste, Drain cleaning & transportation of silt, Collection & Transportation of Horticulture Waste and Collection & Storage of Domestic Hazardous Waste, in Zone 2, 5, 8 (Package 2) to designated processing facility/disposal site/collection centres."	Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) + GST	Rs. 2,13,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Thirteen Lakhs Only)	10 Years Extendable up to 5 Years
3	Selection of Contractor for "Door-to-Door Collection, Transfer and Secondary Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste, Road/Street Sweeping and transportation of sweeping Waste, Drain cleaning & transportation of silt, Collection & Transportation of Horticulture Waste and Collection & Storage of Domestic Hazardous Waste, in Zone 3, 6 (Package 3) to designated processing facility/disposal site/collection centres."	Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only) + GST	Rs. 2,06,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Six Lakhs Only)	10 Years Extendable up to 5 Years

Event of Calendar:

Sl. No.	Events	Date & Time
1	Online Tender purchase start date	12/12/2023 by 10:00 AM
2	Online Tender purchase end date	19/12/2023 by 4:00 PM
3	Online Bid Submission End Date	19/12/2023 by 5:00 PM
4	Hard copy of technical submission end date	19/12/2023 by 6:00 PM
5	Technical Proposal Open Date	19/12/2023 by 6:00 PM

Note: All Information regarding Tenders and Documents can be seen/download from website **https://etender.up.nic.in**. Any clarification please contact Mobile: **8909121015, 9451269458**

Environmental Engineer, Lucknow Municipal Corporation

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Tribal Welfare Department

Tender called for the Establishment Long Range Wireless Internet connectivity, Smart Study Centre including Video Conferencing System, Tele Medicine Clinic and Mentoring Program to tribal hamlets of Erode and Tirupathur districts where internet connection and telephone communication facility is not available in the tribal settlements and Tenders are invited from experienced companies to establish Internet and telephone communication facilities Full details of tenders are available in the Website URL : **tntenders.gov.in**

Contact phone number. 9698968635, 044-28516689

Last date for the submission of tenders 27.12.23, 5.00 p.m.

DIPR/6582/Tender/2023 **Director of Triabl Welfare**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Short Tender Call Notice E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle - 36/2023-24 Memo No -2812 Dt.08.12.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for temple works as detailed in the table below:

1.	Nature of Work	: **Temple Work**
2.	No of Work	: **4 Nos**
3.	Tender Cost	: **Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)**
4.	Class of Contractor	: **B & A Class**
5.	Available of Bid document in the Website	: From **10.00 AM of Dt.13.12.2023** up to **05.00 PM of Dt.21.12.2023 up to 5.00 PM**
6.	Date of opening of Bid	: **Dt.22.12.2023 at 11.30 AM**
7.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:**https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	

Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
B-1425 : OIPR-34127/11/0045/2324

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ,
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com ; Tel / FAX:- 0680-2404287)
At:-Ambapua, Po:-Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011

No. e-tender //6874 // RWC// BAM// Dated 11.12.2023 E-Mail/E-despatch

2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender / 80-2023-24/BPR

1) **The partial modification of Road works under MMSY-TRIP & MMSY-IMPROVEMENT TO EXISTING R.D. ROAD vide above identification has been made as follows.**

1.	Date of Availability of tender	:	**14.12.2023 to 28.12.2023 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 28.11.2023 to 12.12.2023 up to 3.00 PM
2.	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	**26.12.2023 at 5.30 PM** instead of 08.12.2023 at 2.00 PM
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	:	**29.12.2023 at 11.00 AM** instead of 13.12.2023 at 11.00 AM
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	:	**Will be intimated later on**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O-1772 : OIPR-25071/11/0091/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Tel.06766-258301(0); email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e Procurement Notice for Bridge Works under DMF Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No.405
No. 4513 // Date : 08.12.2023

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Bridge Works under DMF in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of Work : **01 (One)** No.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Bridge Online NCB No.405	Dt.15.12.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.29.12.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.28.12.23 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.30.12.23 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.
O-1770 : OIPR-25177/11/0044/2324

INBRIEF

Kinetic Green unveils electric two-wheeler Zulu at ₹69,000

Kinetic Green on Monday unveiled its latest electric two-wheeler Zulu in the sub-₹1 lakh price point to take on internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. "We have done some financial innovation. Zulu is priced at ₹94,990, but will be offered at ₹69,000 through our new subscription model," CEO Sulajja Firodia Motwani said in an interaction. "Zulu can be charged up to 80% in 30 minutes and will have a range of 104 km," the company said.

'Import duty on cotton affects opportunities in textile sector'

India's import duty on cotton has adversely impacted shipments of Supima - a premium U.S. cotton variety to India, said Marc Lewkowitz, President and CEO of Supima. Mr. Lewkowitz told *The Hindu* that the duty was a "disincentive" for brands that wanted to source products made of Supima cotton in India. "The production of Suvin [Indian extra long staple cotton] is very less. The duty is taking away opportunities from Indian textile mills," the CEO said.

RattanIndia arm introduces drone for healthcare, e-com

RattanIndia Enterprises Ltd. announced the introduction of L07, a compact delivery drone, for e-commerce and healthcare industries, through its company Throttle Aerospace Systems. The L07 Compact is designed, developed, and manufactured in India, specifically for use cases where the payloads are small. It is commercially available for deployment within the cargo drone operations as prescribed by the DGCA, the company said.

Retail inflation is stable now: FM

India's retail inflation has declined from an average of 7.1% in April-October 2022 to 5.4% in the corresponding period of 2023, Ms. Sitharaman tells Parliament; the FM attributes weakening price rise largely to a steady drop in core inflation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The country's consumer price inflation is now "stable" and within the official tolerance band of 2% to 6%, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman conveyed to the Lok Sabha on Monday, attributing weakening price rise largely to a steady drop in core inflation.

"India's retail inflation has declined from an average of 7.1% in April-October 2022 to 5.4% in the corresponding period of 2023. Core inflation [that excludes food and energy costs] has declined from 5.1% in April 2023 to 4.3% in October 2023," the FM said in response to a question from MP Sushil Kumar Rinku on retail inflation and adverse weather conditions" and the government and the Reserve Bank of India had helped resolve such mismatches and reined in inflation through proactive supply-side initiatives and effective demand stabilisation measures, she underlined.

"Retail inflation is now stable and within the notified tolerance band of 2% to 6%," Ms. Sitharaman said, adding that the pace of price rise had been "mostly within acceptable limits" since the introduction of the tolerance band in 2016. A steady decline in core inflation had been "increasing steeply".

Temporary increases in inflation "on a few occasions were caused by demand-supply mismatches arising out of global shocks critical in weakening inflationary pressure in the Indian economy, she said. Ms. Sitharaman outlined some of the government's steps to restrain inflation such as easing food imports, preventing hoarding, extending the free food grain scheme, and raising LPG subsidy.

November's retail inflation numbers will be released by the National Statistics Office on Tuesday and the RBI has indicated there may be a spike in inflation in November from the four-month low of 4.87% in October due to an uptick in vegetable prices.

Easing inflation

FM asserts inflation has been within acceptable limits since the introduction of the tolerance band in 2016

- Nirmala Sitharaman says retail inflation is now stable and within the RBI's notified tolerance band of 2% to 6%
- Core inflation has declined from 5.1% in April 2023 to 4.3% in October 2023, FM says

- Temporary increases in inflation reined in by supply-side and demand stabilisation measures, she asserts

Don't bet on rate cuts in 2024: Neelkanth

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is unlikely to announce an interest rate cut in 2024 but there may be some easing in liquidity conditions, Axis Bank chief economist Neelkanth Mishra said on Monday.

Mr. Mishra's assessment differs from that of most other economists who expect the central bank to initiate rate cuts in the third quarter of 2024 [between June and August] when it expects retail inflation to average 4%.

Neelkanth Mishra

"I know there's a consensus building up that the RBI is going to cut rates next year. We are not in that camp, we don't think that RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will find an opportunity to cut repo rates next year. This is despite the fact that consensus expectations are that global rates will fall," he said.

Don't fall prey to loan-waiver offers: RBI cautions public

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cautioned members of the public against falling prey to false and misleading campaigns offering loan waivers. The bank has asked people to report such incidents to law-enforcement agencies.

"The RBI has noticed certain misleading advertisements enticing borrowers by offering loan waivers," the central bank said in a circular. "These entities seem to be actively promoting many such campaigns in the print media as well as social media platforms.

There are reports of entities charging a fee for issuing 'debt waiver certificates' without authority

"There are reports of such entities charging a service/legal fee for issuing 'debt waiver certificates' without any authority," according to the circular.

"It has also come to our notice that in certain locations, campaigns are being run by a few persons, which undermine the efforts of banks in enforcing their rights over the securities charged to the banks," the RBI said. "Such entities are misrepresenting that dues to financial institutions, including banks need not be repaid.

"Such activities undermine the stability of financial institutions and, above all, the interest of the depositors. It may also be noted that associating with such entities can result in direct financial losses," the RBI warned.

'70% semiconductor setup costs borne by the government'

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The geopolitical opportunity for India to attract companies and countries looking for resilient semiconductor and electronics supply chains is only going to last "four or five years," and hence it is important to seize the opportunity within this period, Secretary of Electronics and Information Technology S. Krishnan said on Monday.

Mr. Krishnan characterised government subsidies for semiconductor-related assembly and manufacturing facilities as "generous," saying that a bulk of the setup costs were borne by the government.

"Today, with about 50% [financial] support from the government of India and about 20% subsidy support from the State governments, almost 70% of the cost of the project is really funded by government as a subsidy," he said.

Mr. Krishnan further said that much of these subsidies were disbursed *pari passu*, that is, before production had even gotten under way.

Alliance Air owes ₹83.38 cr. to AAI: MoS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Government-run regional airline Alliance Air accounts for more than 90% of the ₹95 crore owed to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) by various domestic and international airlines, Parliament was informed.

Alliance Air, which was earlier part of the Air India Group, but hived off before privatisation, owes AAI ₹83.38 crore, Minister of State for Civil Aviation V.K. Singh told Rajya Sabha in response to a question.

It was followed by Biman Bangladesh, which owes AAI ₹4.02 crore, and SpiceJet (₹2.13 crore).

Global majors owing money to AAI include British Airways (₹1.85 crore) and Emirates (₹1.44 crore).

States' fiscal outlook for FY24 is favourable, says RBI

K. Ram Kumar
MUMBAI

The overall fiscal outlook for States remains favourable in FY24 with adequate fiscal space for undertaking higher capital expenditure (capex) in view of resilient domestic economic activity and States' consolidation efforts, according to a Reserve Bank of India report.

On the revenue side, even though the growth in tax revenue during H1 (April-September) 2023-24 at 14.6% was marginally lower than the budgeted 17.9%, it is expected to improve during H2 (October-March) 2023-24 due to a favourable base and continued robust GST collection, as per the report 'State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2023-24' put together by RBI officials.

> The RBI highlighted that 79% of State government securities will mature in the next 10 years, implying higher rollover risk for State governments

On the expenditure side, growth in revenue expenditure during the year so far (H1 - 2023-24) at 8.9% is much lower than the full year Budget Estimate of 18% and provides space for undertaking higher capital expenditure, while persevering with fiscal consolidation, RBI officials said.

The overall debt-GDP ratio of States peaked at 31% at end-March 2021 and declined to 27.5% by end-March 2023, supported by fiscal consolidation. But for some States, however, the debt-GDP ratio remained high.

Pressure points

At a disaggregated level, the debt-GDP ratio could exceed 25% (average of debt-GDP ratio from 2015-16 to 2019-20) as at end-March 2024 (BE) for 25 States/ UTs.

The report highlighted that around 79% of SGS (State government securities) will mature in the next 10 years, implying higher rollover risk for State governments.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Tata Power EV, IOCL to jointly set up over 500 charging points

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to roll out fast and ultra-fast electric vehicle (EV) charging points across the country.

Tata Power would install more than 500 EV charging points across multiple IOCL retail outlets to help alleviate range anxiety for EV owners travelling betwen cities.

"Leveraging IOCL's extensive presence, Tata Power will set up fast and superfast charging points in multiple regions, contributing to accessibility and inclusivity for a sustainable

electric mobility future," said Virendra Goyal, Head - Business Development-EV Charging, Tata Power.

"IOCL envisages to provide 10,000 EV charging stations by 2024," said Saumitra Shrivastava, ED (Retail-N&E), IOCL.

"With more than 6,000 EV charging stations at present, the company plans to keep expanding its reach," he added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	69,929	0.15
US Dollar	83.37	0.04
Brent oil	75.80	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2855.80	33.65
Adani Ports	1031.90	8.95
Apollo Hosp	5547.35	-8.00
Asian Paints	3233.00	1.00
Axis Bank	1116.50	-14.70
Bajaj Auto	6138.40	62.70
Bajaj Finserv	1702.80	-7.35
Bajaj Finance	7292.75	-14.85
Bharti Airtel	1000.85	0.60
BPCL	465.50	-4.95
Britannia Ind	4944.15	1.95
Cipla	1202.30	-16.80
Coal India	353.65	2.65
Divis Lab	3670.50	-11.25
Dr Reddys Lab	5473.50	-290.40
Eicher Motors	4025.65	-29.35
Grasim Ind	2084.05	14.00
HCL Tech	1375.30	11.20
HDFC Bank	1651.00	-2.20
HDFC Life	672.50	1.25
Hero MotoCorp	3704.65	-11.10
Hindalco	522.40	2.05
Hind Unilever	2503.65	-18.65
ICICI Bank	1017.10	6.25
IndusInd Bank	1521.85	12.90
Infosys	1488.50	-2.65
ITC	452.45	3.30
JSW Steel	845.10	5.75
Kotak Bank	1844.05	5.60
L&T	3385.80	7.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5770.65	61.95
M&M	1652.20	-16.35
Maruti Suzuki	10541.75	-76.80
NestleIndia	25043.45	253.85
NTPC	287.30	2.25
ONGC	197.80	1.85
PowerGrid Corp	230.95	2.35
Reliance Ind	2459.35	3.60
SBI Life	1460.60	-4.60
State Bank	614.25	0.10
Sun Pharma	1241.40	5.60
TataConsumerProduct	950.45	3.85
Tata Motors	720.80	6.25
Tata Steel	130.05	0.85
TCS	3642.90	16.20
Tech Mahindra	1233.30	8.00
Titan	3630.50	-4.15
UltraTech Cement	9670.90	257.35
UPL	602.40	17.20
Wipro	420.60	-2.00

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 11

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.19	83.51
Euro	89.61	89.95
British Pound	104.48	104.89
Japanese Yen (100)	56.92	57.14
Chinese Yuan	11.58	11.63
Swiss Franc	94.63	95.00
Singapore Dollar	61.91	62.16
Canadian Dollar	61.21	61.45
Malaysian Ringitt	17.76	17.84
Australian Dollar	54.57	54.79

Source:Indian Bank

KOLAR-CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT
CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIES UNION LTD
[KOMUL - KOLAR DAIRY] Kolar Dairy Premises, NH 75, HUTHUR post, Kolar-563102
Mail id: komulcivil@gmail.com **Ph no: 7760964584 / 9035553765**

IFT No: KCMU/ENGG-CIVIL/00177/8325/2023-24, **Date: 05.12.2023**

Kolar-Chikkaballapur District Co-operative Milk Producer Societies' Union Limited invites tenders through e - procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** vide tender indent No: **KMF/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT98** interested eligible bidders can participate for the work detailed in the Table below.

Sl No	Name of work	Approximate Value of work (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Period of Completion	Class of contractor
1.	Construction of Ice Cream Plant Building at Milk Chilling Center, Chinthamani.	13.13 Crores + GST	15.00 Lakhs	12 Months (including rainy seasons)	Class I And above

1. Tender schedules can be downloaded from 11.12.2023 to 12.01.2024 up to 05:30PM
2. Last date for queries: 30.12.2023 within 5.30PM
3. Pre-bid meeting: 02.01.2024 at 11:30 AM
4. Last date and time for receipt of Tenders: 12.01.2023 up to 5.30PM
5. Technical part of the tender will be opened at 10:30 AM on 15.01.2024
6. Successful bidders will be intimated with the date and time for opening commercial bid.

Sd/-, The Managing Director,
Tender inviting authority - KOMUL

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KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 172,173,175,176/2023 - 24/SE/PHC/A LP-RT-1. JJM Haripad 9LL OHSR Arattupuzha 6LL OHSR Kandalloor & Devikulangara Zone - 5, Thtikkunnapuzha, Karthikappally & Chingoli Zone - 3, Ambalapuzha South 12LL OHSR, Purakkad 15LL OHSR and near by Panchayaths - Construction of OHSR Supply and Installation of Transmission Mains and Distribution Mains.
EMD : Rs.2,00,000/- to Rs.5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs.13,010/- to Rs.19,518/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 26-12-2023 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 0477-2237954, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-1802-2023-24 **PH circle, Alappuzha**

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following projects of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project

Sl. No	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	PAC Amount	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting Including Utility Shifting of Water Supply and Power lines in ABD area Under Smart City Mission Corporation Roads in Thiruvananthapuram :			
1.1	Marakkada Road (ID 43)	2023_SCTLT_627783_1	Rs.1,26,11,036/-	14 Dec 2023
1.2	Pazhayasalai Road (ID 44)	2023_SCTLT_627820_1	Rs.2,19,26,153/-	14 Dec 2023
2	Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Multi Level Mechanical Car Parking System at Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram on EPC Mode	2023_SCTLT_622532_1	Rs.16,58,48,299/-	16 Dec 2023
3	Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Multi Level Mechanical Car Parking System at Putharikandam, Thiruvananthapuram on EPC Mode	2023_SCTLT_599014_2	Rs.16,52,54,238/	16 Dec 2023
4	Selection of Contractor for Green Park Spectrum of Biological Hub at Sewage Treatment Plants at Muttathara and Medical College	2023_SCTLT_605577_3	Rs.68,47,516/-	14 Dec 2023

Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail. All the RFP documents and details are available on the e-Procurement Website. Bids are only accepted online on the Website https://etenders.kerala.gov.in

(sd/-) **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Head Office, # 6/13/1, 10th Block, 2nd Phase, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072,
Telephone: 080-22202100 **email:** kredlmd@gmail.com & kredlsolaroffgrid@gmail.com
RFS No. KREDL/07/SOG/F-138/ KUSUM-B/2023-24 Date: 12.12.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement platform)

Request for selection of vendors for **Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and 5 Years Comprehensive Maintenance of 40,000 Nos. of DC Off Grid Solar Powered Agriculture Pumping Systems of 3, 5, 7.5 & 10 HP capacity with Remote Monitoring Facility of open/borewells to the farmer's land in Karnataka under Component-B of PM-KUSUM Scheme through e-procurement portal under Single stage two cover systems.** Intending bidders can download the tender documents from the e-procurement website: **https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 12.12.2023.**

Pre-bid Meeting	**15th December 2023 at 11.45 am** **Venue:** Conference Hall, KREDL, # 6/13/1, 10th block, 2nd stage, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru-560072
Last Date & Time for submission of **Pre-bid Queries/Clarifications**	**15th December 2023 at 17:00 hrs**
Last Date & Time for uploading the documents by the bidders	**27th December 2023 at 16:00 hrs**
Last date for submission of original hard copy of EMD document	**Before opening of Techno-Commercial Bids**
Date & Time for Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid	**29th December 2023 at 15:00 hrs**
Date & Time for Opening of Price Bid	**Will be opened in bidding portal after completion of techno-commercial evaluation. Separate intimation regarding date of opening of price bid will not be issued.**

Sd/- Managing Director, KREDL, Bengaluru

CHOP CHOP!

Stop clock trial to get underway during West Indies-England series

REUTERS

The stop clock trial, which will restrict the amount of time taken between overs, will get underway during the white-ball series between West Indies and England, the sport's governing body ICC said on Monday. The trial will start with the first T20 between the West Indies and England on Tuesday in Barbados.

CREATING HISTORY

Nahida Akter named ICC Player of the Month for November

AFP

Bangladesh spin bowling sensation Nahida Akter on Monday clinched the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for November for her wicket-taking exploits during last month's competitive ODI series victory over Pakistan on home soil. She is the first Bangladesh women's player to win the award.

SENSATIONAL

Australia's Travis Head wins the men's award

K.R. DEEPAK

Australian batter Travis Head, who smashed an explosive century to help Australia win their sixth ICC Cricket World Cup title, has been named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for November 2023. Head beat tough competition from teammate Glenn Maxwell and India seamer Mohammed Shami to claim the honour.

BITTERSWEET

Narwal goes past 1600 raid points but Yoddhas fail to tame Bulls

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pardeep Narwal (13 points) became the first player to surpass 1600 raid points in the PKL, but UP Yoddhas went down 36-38 to Bengaluru Bulls in Bengaluru on Monday. Vikash Kandola and Bharat scored 11 points each for Bulls. Earlier, Arjun Deshwal (15) took Jaipur Pink Panthers to a 35-32 win over Gujarat Giants.

Players auditioning for T20 WC look to spend more time in the middle

South Africa and India will hope rain stays away on Tuesday so that they can try out fringe players with only five games left for the showpiece event

INDIA IN SA

Press Trust of India
GQEBERHA

Demolition men: Ruturaj and Jaiswal would hope to get the team off to brisk starts and push their case ahead of the T20 World Cup. PTI

After a washout in the series-opener robbed the auditioning Indian youngsters of valuable game time, the think tank will be hoping for clear weather in the second T20I against South Africa here on Tuesday.

Even the toss could not be held in Durban on Sunday and there is a rain forecast even for the second game of the three-match series.

Shubman Gill was not part of the T20 series against Australia. Suryakumar Yadav and Rinku Singh seem to be the only certainties in the batting order.

Both Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad have got runs under their belt but if Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma make themselves available for the World Cup, the two players would need a sensational effort in the IPL to make the cut.

The only other series India play before the World Cup is against Afghanistan at home next month. The selectors will be forced to consider only IPL performance for World Cup selection.

Like Rinku, Jitesh Sharma is also being seen as the finisher for India in the shortest format. The extra bounce on South Africa pitches will pose a stiff test for the young batting lineup. In the bowling department, multiple spots are up for grabs with only Arshdeep Singh and Jasprit Bumrah, who is not playing this series, straightforward selections for the World Cup.

The teams (from):
India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Shreyas Iyer, Ishan Kishan (wk), Jitesh Sharma (wk), Ravindra Jadeja (vice-capt.), Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar and Deepak Chahar.

South Africa:
Aiden Markram (Capt.), Ottniel Baartman, Matthew Breetzke, Nandre Burger, Gerald Coetzee (1st and 2ndT20Is), Donovan Ferreira, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen (1st and 2nd T20Is), Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Andile Phehlukwayo, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, and Lizaad Williams.

Match starts at 7.30 p.m. IST.

Spinners Hartley, Bashir in England squad for India Tests

Hartley. GETTY IMAGES

Bashir. GETTY IMAGES

Press Trust of India
LONDON

England on Monday named four specialist spinners, including the uncapped duo of Tom Hartley and Shoaib Bashir, in the 16-member squad for next month's five-Test series in India.

Hartley and Bashir were both part of the England Lions squad that trained in the United Arab Emirates last month.

The 20-year-old Bashir, who plays for Somerset, has taken 10 wickets in his six-match First Class career that began in June this year.

The other two specialist spinners in the squad are Jack Leach, who has recovered from his back injury, and teenage leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed.

England skipper Ben Stokes, who underwent knee surgery after the World Cup, has also been named in the squad.

The squad: Ben Stokes (Capt.), Rehan Ahmed, James Anderson, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ben Foakes, Tom Hartley, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root and Mark Wood.

The schedule: Jan. 25 to 29: Hyderabad; **Feb. 2 to 6:** Visakhapatnam; **Feb. 15 to 19:** Rajkot; **Feb. 23 to 27:** Ranchi; **March 7 to 11:** Dharamshala.

333 players to battle it out for 77 slots at the IPL auction

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Hopes aflutter: The 10 teams will look to fly high at the auction on December 19. SPORTZPICS/IPL

The Indian Premier League (IPL) Player Auction will have 333 players from 12 countries, including 214 Indians, hoping to attract a bid from either of the 10 franchises in Dubai on December 19.

The IPL authorities on Monday evening released the auction list a day before the pre-auction transfer window closes. Based on the interest by the franchises, the list has been pruned from 1150-plus cricketers who had registered for the auction.

Interestingly, a maximum of 77 slots are up for grabs, considering the cap on signing 25 players per franchise for every IPL season. A maximum of 47 Indians will go under the hammer come December 19, while there will be not more than 30 of the 119 overseas cricketers.

A total of 23 players have opted for a base price of ₹2 crore. All the six members of Australia's triumphant ODI World Cup campaign last month who have entered the auction have opted for the highest base price. They are Travis Head, Steve Smith, captain Pat Cummins, Josh Inglis, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc.

Head, who last featured in 2017, and Starc, who returns to the auction after five years (he pulled out of the season after the auction in 2018) are likely to be among the top buys along with South Africa fast bowler Gerald Coetzee, who has also opted for the highest base price.

Shardul Thakur has also opted for ₹2 crore as his base price while New Zealand youngster Rachin Ravindra – despite a sensational World Cup – has a base price of ₹50 lakh, the lowest on offer for a player with an international cap.

Among the uncapped Indians, Shahrukh Khan has a base price of ₹40 lakh while Sarfaraz Khan –- the other high-profile domestic cricketer to have been released ahead of the auction – has gone for a base price of ₹20 lakh, the minimum base price.

Sarfaraz's younger brother Musheer is among the seven members of India's under-19 squad that is competing in the ongoing Asia Cup.

The others are Arshin Kulkarni, A. Avanish Rao, Saumy Pandey, Murugan Abhishek, Aaradhya Shukla and Raj Limbani.

The break-up: India 214 players; England 25; Australia 21; South Africa 18; West Indies 16; New Zealand 14; Afghanistan 10; Sri Lanka 8; Bangladesh 3; Zimbabwe 2; Namibia 1; Netherlands 1.

Shreyanka and Saika — WPL stars shining on the international stage

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Spin twins: Saika and Shreyanka turned heads with their performances in the T20I series against England. EMMANUAL YOGINI

They are the daughters of the Women's Premier League – Shreyanka Patil and Saika Ishaque. More of their tribe should do India proud in the years to come.

The two spinners showcased their skill at the Wankhede Stadium on Sunday night as they shared six wickets to stifle the England batting and put India on course for a face-saving win in the last game of the three-match T20I series.

But Shreyanka and Saika, who made their international debut in the series, as well as Amanjot Kaur, who first played for India early this year, showed the national squad was moving in the right direction. Shreyanka is only 21, while Amanjot is two years older.

Saika turned 28 a couple of months ago and she is the best example of what the WPL could do to a female cricketer. The left-arm spinner had been out of the Bengal team for three years, and if she hadn't caught the WPL talent scout's eyes in domestic matches on her return - coach Shibasagar Singh made her a much improved bowler after working on her action and speed - she may have struggled to break through.

The Mumbai Indians bowler was undoubtedly one of the breakout stars of the inaugural WPL and the Purple Cap sat on her head for a considerable time. The hair under her cap looks rather different now – she has dyed it blond – but her length and variations of speed remain as troublesome for the batters.

At the WPL, Shreyanka was one of the few bright spots for Royal Challengers Bangalore, which had a nightmare of a tournament despite shining brightest on the auction table. She impressed with her off-spin and her batting.

England coach Jon Lewis was profuse in his praise of her. "She is really smart," said Lewis, who had a close look at her as the UP Warriorz coach at the WPL. "She uses angles, turns the ball. She fields well, moves well and can hold the bat."

He wasn't surprised by Saika's inclusion in the Indian team after her WPL show. "She has great control," he said.

If Saika and Shreyanka, along with the other bowlers, ensured India would not have too much to chase, the finishing touch was provided by Amanjot. Saika's MI teammate hit Sophie Ecclestone, the World No. 1 bowler, for boundaries in the penultimate over.

The WPL may only be one-year-old, but its impact is already showing in Indian women's cricket.

India-England T20I series in numbers

Batting	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Sciver-Brunt	2	93	77	140.90	1
Wyatt	2	75	75	150.00	1
Knight	3	65	52	116.07	1
Smriti	3	64	48	100.00	0
Jemimah	3	63	30	85.13	0
Bowling	**Inns**	**Overs**	**Wkts**	**BB**	**Econ**
Ecclestone	3	11.2	7	3/15	6.26
Renuka	3	12.0	7	3/27	6.33
Shreyanka	3	8.2	5	3/19	8.28
Saika	3	10.0	5	3/22	8.10
Kemp	3	7.0	4	2/24	8.00

INBRIEF

Ireland's Wiffen breaks oldest swimming world record

Irishman Daniel Wiffen broke the world record in the 800m freestyle which had stood for 15 years on his way to winning his third gold medal at the European short course swimming championships in Otopeni, Romania, on Sunday. He eclipsed Australian Grant Hackett's mark set in 2008 by almost three seconds, clocking 7min 20.46sec to smash the sport's oldest world record. The 22-year-old added the 800m title to the golds he claimed earlier this week in Otopeni, Romania, in the 400m and 1500m freestyle.

United has to beat Bayern to avoid CL elimination

The odds are against Manchester United as the three-time European Cup winner battle to avoid early elimination from the Champions League. United faces Bayern Munich at Old Trafford on Tuesday and needs to end the German giants' record 39-game unbeaten run in the group stages to have any chance of advancing to the knockout rounds. Erik ten Hag's team is on the bottom of Group A and needs a draw between Copenhagen and Galatasaray in the group's other game to advance.

Tuesday's fixtures: Lens vs Sevilla; PSV Eindhoven vs. Arsenal (*both matches at 11. 15 p.m. IST*); FC Union Berlin vs. Real Madrid; FC Copenhagen vs. Galatasaray; FC Salzburg vs. Benfica; Inter Milan vs. Real Sociedad; Manchester United vs. Bayern Munich; Napoli vs. Braga (*all matches at 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday*).

Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' gets past Hanuman Blessing HC

Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' edged out Hanuman Blessing HC 2-1 in the KSHA-BHA 'B' division hockey league in Bengaluru.

The results: Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' 2 (Shavan 47, Suroj 58) bt Hanuman Blessings HC 1 (Kalyan 38); Zoza HA 6 (Abishek 2, 22, N. Sanjay 31, Pruthvi 33, 44, Yuvaraj 46) bt Kolar District HA 2 (G. Thavasiuappan 43, K. Karunamoorthy 48).

LIVE TELECAST

TPL: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.
South Africa vs India: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
West Indies vs England: 1st T20I, FanCode, 3.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Indrajith guides TN home against Mumbai

The No. 3 batter's century helps Karthik's men make the semifinals where they will take on Haryana; in the other quarterfinal, Karnataka defeats Vidarbha to set-up a last-four date with Rajasthan, which outplays Kerala that missed the services of the experienced Sanju Samson

HAZARE TROPHY

Dhruva Prasad
RAJKOT

What promised to be a tantalising contest turned out to be one-sided as Tamil Nadu thrashed Mumbai by seven wickets to set up a semifinal date with Haryana in the Vijay Hazare Trophy at the Sanosara Cricket Ground 'B' here on Monday.

B. Indrajith's ton and Vijay Shankar's fifty took Tamil Nadu over the line with plenty to spare. Indrajith, who seemed rushed at the beginning, scooping to the boundary and then toe ending one attempting the same shot, played with maturity before hitting the winning runs and notching up a 98-ball hundred.

Vijay Shankar hit the odd boundary and used his feet well against the spinners during their unbeaten 126-run alliance.

The chase was set up by N. Jagadeesan and B. Aparajith's 50-run stand. Their elegance was on display with late cuts, crisp drives and punches through covers against the new ball. Though they fell trying to up the ante, Indrajith and Vijay Shankar ensured their dismissals didn't cost Tamil Nadu.

Stunning efforts: Indrajit ensured an easy win for TN; *right:* Karthik shows presence of mind to take Rahane's catch. VIJAY SONEJI

Earlier, with the sun beating down, Ajinkya Rahane understandably elected to bat. With little swing on offer, left-arm spinner M. Siddharth was given the new ball and he removed Divyaansh Saxena for a duck off the last ball of the second over.

Jay Bista and Hardik Tamore consolidated with a fifty-run stand on a pitch that had true bounce and appreciable turn. Just when it looked like Tamil Nadu was in for a long and frustrating day, Karthik's astute rotation of spinners worked wonders.

R. Sai Kishore drew a leading edge in his first over to account for Tamore and a change of ends for Varun Chakravarthy in the following had Rahane looping the ball up while pressing forward only for Karthik to run from behind the stumps and complete the catch.

In a tangle

The spin duo had the Mumbai batters in a tangle with their lengths. Though Prasad Pawar stitched two vital partnerships with Bista and Shivam Dube en route to a brisk half-century, the rest of the batting caved. Dube, after hitting his third six down the ground, was caught in the deep trying to clear the same area next ball. Shams Mulani and Mohit Avasthi, looking to play the full quota of 50 overs, struck a sensible 35-run partnership for the eighth wicket, but it was too little, too late.

In the other contests, Karnataka's vaunted pace attack skittled out Vidarbha for 177 before its batters made light work of the total, cruising to a seven-wicket win with 57 balls to spare.

Vijaykumar Vyshak starred with a four-wicket haul as Vidarbha's top and middle-order fell in a heap. A 49-run sixth-wicket partnership between Shubham Dubey and Yash Kadam gave the total some respectability. However, R. Samarth's and skipper Mayank Agarwal's 82-run stand had all but sealed Vidarbha's fate.

In the semifinal, Karnataka will take on Rajasthan, which bundled out Kerala for 67 to script a 200-run win. In the absence of skipper Sanju Samson, Kerala collapsed to its second lowest total in List-A cricket, a couple of days after registering its highest score in 50-over cricket against Maharashtra.

Rajasthan's pace trio of Khaleel Ahmed, Arafat Khan and Aniket Choudhary wrapped up Kerala's innings in 21 overs. Vishnu Vinod retired hurt after facing one delivery and didn't return to the crease.

Opener Ankit Kumar's century eclipsed Shahbaz Ahmed's fighting ton as Haryana beat Bengal by four wickets. Chasing 227, Haryana was struggling at 14 for two before Ankit steadied the ship with veteran Ashok Menaria with a 126-run partnership in which the latter's contribution was just 39.

Earlier, Shahbaz lifted Bengal from a precarious 93 for five, after Sumit Kumar, Nishant Sindhu and Yuzvendra Chahal made early inroads, but it wasn't enough in the end.

The scores: Mumbai 227 in 48.3 overs (Prasad Pawar 59, Shivam Dube 45, Varun Chakravarthy 3/37, R. Sai Kishore 3/51) lost to Tamil Nadu 229/3 in 43.2 overs (B. Aparajith 45, B. Indrajith 103 n.o., Vijay Shankar 51 n.o.).
Vidarbha 173 in 44.5 overs (Shubham Dubey 41, Vijaykumar Vyshak 4/44) lost to Karnataka 177/3 in 40.3 overs (R. Samarth 72 n.o., Mayank Agarwal 51).
Rajasthan 267/8 in 50 overs (Mahipal Lomror 122 n.o., Kunal Singh Rathore 66, Akhin Sathar 3/62) bt Kerala 67 in 21 overs (Arafat Khan 3/20, Aniket Choudhary 4/26).
Bengal 225 in 50 overs (Shahbaz Ahmed 100, Yuzvendra Chahal 4/37) lost to Haryana 226/6 in 45.1 overs (Ankit Kumar 102).

Arya and Syndrela clinch under-15 titles at Panchkula

NATL.-RANKING TT

Sports Bureau

India's top-ranked under-15 boy Arya Sarthak overcame a blip in the second set against Rupam Sardar to justify his status in the National-ranking table tennis tournament at Panchkula on Monday.

Sarthak, the winner in Hyderabad, added a second under-15 title of the season by forcing Sardar to finish runner-up for the third time this year.

In the girls' under-15 final, second seed Syndrela Das upstaged top seed Riana Bhoota in four games for her third crown of the season.

Riana, too, was looking for her third crown of the year after winning in Vijayawada last week. Last month, Syndrela, 14, had set a unique record by clinching the under-15, 17 and 19 titles at Vadodara.

The results:
Youth (u-15): Boys, final: Arya Sarthak (PSPBA) bt Rupam Sardar (Ben) 11-2, 3-11, 11-7, 11-6; **Semifinals:** Sarthak bt Ritvik Gupta (J&K) 7-11, 11-7, 12-10, 11-6; Sardar bt Sahil Rawat (PSPBA) 6-11, 11-9, 11-9, 12-10; **Quarterfinals:** Sarthak bt Rajdip Sen (NCoE) 11-5, 11-5, 11-5; Ritvik bt Soham Mukherjee (Ben) 7-11, 14-12, 11-8, 5-11, 11-9; Sardar bt Arya Kataria (Guj) 11-7, 11-8, 11-5; Rawat bt Aditya Das (Ben) 11-6, 11-2, 11-6.

Girls, final: Syndrela Das (Ben) bt Riana Bhoota (Mah) 11-6, 5-11, 11-5, 11-5; **Semifinals:** Riana bt Kavya Bhatt (Mah) 9-11, 11-1, 13-11, 11-5; Syndrela bt Vani Sharma (Chd) 11-7, 11-6, 11-8; **Quarterfinals:** Riana bt Aarushi Nandi (Ben) 11-7, 11-2, 11-6; Kavya bt Avisha Karmakar (Del) 11-8, 3-11, 13-11, 11-8; Vani bt Prisha Goel (Del) 9-11, 11-9, 7-11, 13-11, 11-2; Syndrela bt Ahona Ray (Ben) 11-7, 11-6, 11-6.

SNAPSHOTS

Real Kashmir springs a surprise on Gokulam Kerala

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir Football Club trounced Gokulam Kerala FC 3-0 in an I-League match here on Monday.

Real Kashmir opened the scoring through Gnohere Krizo, who capitalised on the Gokulam goalkeeper's hesitation in the 31st minute.

Jeremy Laldinpuai added the second in the 59th minute and Krizo completed the tally in the 65th.

RKFC climbed to the third spot wth 17 points from nine games, while Gokulam is sixth with 13 points from nine games.

In Hyderabad, Sreenidi Deccan took full points, thanks to an own goal by Delhi FC's Gagandeep Bali in the 64th minute.

The results: At Srinagar: Real Kashmir 3 (Gnohere Krizo 31, 65, Jeremy Laldinpuai 59) bt Gokulam 0.

At Hyderabad: Sreenidi Deccan 1 (Gagandeep Bali 64-og) bt Delhi FC 0.

Smooth start for Shrikrishna

CHENNAI: S. Shrikrishna (PSPB) began his campaign in men's snooker in dominant fashion, recording breaks of 52 and 108 in his 4-0 (69-13, 65-44, 63-25, 109-0) win over Md. Tausif (Chhattisgarh) in the round-robin league of the 90th National Billiards & Snooker championships here on Monday.

Meanwhile, Pankaj Advani (PSPB) recorded breaks of 103, 107 and 134 in his 4-0 victory over Peter Paul (RSPB).

Defending champion Kamal Chawla beat his RSPB colleague Nitesh Madan 4-1, with a break of 121 being the highlight.

Other results: Brijesh Damani (PSPB) bt Mayur Garg (Guj) 4-1.

Laxman Rawat (PSPB) bt Vijay Nichani (TN) 4-3.

Anurag Giri (MP) bt Tushar Sahay (Guj) 4-1.

Shahbaaz Khan (Mah) bt Dhvaj Haria (PSPB) 4-0.

Chennai Grandmasters Chess Championship from December 15

Sports Bureau

The Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) will conduct the Chennai Grandmasters chess championship from December 15 to 21 at the Hotel Leela Palace in Chennai.

The tournament will have a mix of Indian and international Grandmasters in a round-robin format with seven rounds of classic chess.

The total prize money, sponsored by the Government of Tamil Nadu, is ₹50 lakh.

The tournament provides opportunity for players like D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

Notable players

Notable players like P. Harikrishna, Levon Aronian, Pavel Eljanov, Alexandr Predke, Sanan Sjugirov and Parham Maghsoodloo will also participate.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Shubham scalps seven as U.P. scores facile win over Karnataka

Shubham Mishra's spell of seven for 37 helped Uttar Pradesh register a 92-run win over Karnataka on the concluding day of the four-day Cooch Behar Trophy under-19 cicket match at the S.D.N.R. Wadayar grounds in Mysuru on Monday.

Resuming at 47 for three in 23 overs, Karnataka was bowled out for 90 in 38.5 overs.

Samit Dravid top-scored with 28.

The scores:
Uttar Pradesh 239 in 77 overs & 177 in 97.3 overs bt Karnataka 234 in 78 overs & 90 in 38.5 overs (Samit Dravid 28, Shubham Mishra 7/37).

Karnataka women have it easy

Karnataka defeated Pondicherry by seven wickets in the I under-23 women's T20 Trophy at Raipur.

The scores: Pondicherry 77/9 in 20 overs (Yuvashri 29, Pooja Kumari 3/15) lost to Karnataka 80/3 in 13.3 overs.

India to open campaign against Bangladesh

ICC U-19 WC

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India will start its campaign in the Under-19 World Cup with a match against Bangladesh on January 20 in Bloemfontein, South Africa as per ICC's revised schedule, which was released on Monday. The fixture had to be renewed after the tournament was shifted from Sri Lanka to South Africa after the ICC suspended the island nation for political interference in cricketing administration. India has been placed in Group A alongside Bangladesh, Ireland and the USA.

After its match against Bangladesh, India will face Ireland on January 25 at Bloemfontein and in its last league match on January 28, it will be up against the USA at the same venue.

India's schedule: January 20: vs. Bangladesh; Jan. 25: vs. Ireland; Jan. 28: vs. USA.

Other groupings: Group B: England, Sosuth Africa, West Indies, Scotland; **Group C:** Australia, Sri Lanka, Namibia, Zimbabwe; **Group D:** Afghanistan, Pakistan, New Zealand, Nepal.

BFC's interim head coach Renedy has a tough job on hand

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Renedy Singh has his task cut out. Having taken over as the Bengaluru FC (BFC) interim head coach after Simon Grayson was shown the door, Renedy must now pull the club out of a slump.

There is little time to get things in order. BFC, with just one win in nine Indian Super League outings, next faces Chennaiyin FC at Chennai on Wednesday.

At a press conference here on Monday, Renedy had a clear message for his players. "We have some good individual players, but they are not really playing together as a team.

"All I want to see is players fight as a team, not as individuals. We have to work as a unit. Players who are not ready to do that can sit outside, and any young player can come in," Renedy said.

Similar situation

The former India captain has been in a similar situation before, when he acted as the East Bengal interim manager in the 2021-22 season.

During that brief tenure, Renedy took the bold step of fielding an all-Indian eleven against Jamshedpur FC. "I had put all Indians in the eleven because some of our players were injured, and some were suspended. But this is not about Indians and foreigners.

Feeling of guilt: BFC custodian Gurpreet thanked fans for the support despite the poor show. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

"I want our players to fight for the team, the fans and themselves," Renedy said.

BFC goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu explained that he felt "guilt" after his side succumbed to a humiliating 0-4 loss to Mumbai City FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday.

"You feel guilt for bringing such emotions to the fans. And yet, our fans overcame their personal emotions and ensured that the players did not feel dejected.

"I feel so fortunate that we have fans who stand by players even through the worst. BFC is a big family which does not give up even after losing 0-4 at home," Sandhu said.

Ashwa Morocco claims R. Raghupathi Reddy Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer G. Shashikanth's Ashwa Morocco, ridden by K.G. Likith Appu, won the R. Raghupathi Reddy Memorial Cup, the main event of Monday's (Dec. 11) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan.

1. TRIBUTE PLATE (DIV. II): DECCAN RANGER (Mohit Singh) 1, Crown Witness (Santosh Raj) 2, Urgent (Shivansh) 3 and Great Combo (R.S. Jodha) 4. 3, 1 and 1-1/4. 1m, 13.89s. ₹31 (w), 11, 19 and 13 (p). SHP: 82, THP: 42, SHW: 48 and 21, FP: 427, Q: 266, Tanala: 851. Favourite: Urgent. Owners: M/s. M. Sudheer Reddy, Mirza Ayub Baig, Mohammed Rashed Ali Khan & Sharath Chandra Reddy Malipedhi. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.

2. BHAKRA NANGAL PLATE (DIV. I): TOFFEE (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, N R I Skypower (Imran Chisty) 2, Windsor (Likith Appu) 3 and Antidote (Abhay Singh) 4. 1, 1-1/2 and Neck, 1m, 25.01s. ₹21 (w), 10, 15 and 15 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 40, SHW: 13 and 18, FP: 66, Q: 24, Tanala: 195. Favourite: N R I Skypower. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Sathessh.

3. NALGONDA CUP (DIV. II): SALISBURY (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Star Cruise (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 2, Challenger (Abhay Singh) 3 and D Yes Boss (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 4. 3-1/4, 1-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 11.16s. ₹113 (w), 20, 26 and 30 (p). SHP: 86, THP: 107, SHW: 38 and 36, FP: 2,776, Q: 575, Tanala: 21, 958. Favourite: Coming Home. Owners: Mr. M. Rama Krishna Reddy, Mr. Bharat Vekant Epuri, Ms. Meka Ahalya & Mr. L.D' Silva. Trainer: L.D' Silva.

4. BHAKRA NANGAL PLATE (DIV. II): FLASHING MEMORIES (R.S. Jodha) 1, Chica Bonita (Likith Appu) 2, Caraxes (A. Imran Khan) 3 and Track Blazer (Deepak Singh) 4. 1-1/2, 2 and Shd. 1m, 25.78s. ₹19 (w) 14, 14 and 15 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 43, SHW: 20 and 29, FP: 80, Q: 75, Tanala: 303. Favourite: Flashing Memories. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: R.S.S.F. Hassan.

5. NALGONDA CUP (DIV. I): MIREYA (Vivek G) 1, Golden Forza (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 2, Cabello (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Master Touch (A. Imran Khan) 4. Not run: Royal Star. 4-3/4, Neck and 3. 1m, 11.36s. ₹24 (w), 16, 19 and 19 (p). SHP: 67, THP: 50, SHW: 17 and 24, FP: 179, Q: 104, Tanala: 620. Favourite: Mireya. Owner: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula. Trainer: G. Sandeep.

6. ZURBARAN PLATE: ANAB E SHAHI (Hindu Singh) 1, The Akhanda (Ashad Asbar) 2, Hugh Capet (Vivek G) 3 and Hard To Toss (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 4. 2-3/4, Head and 3/4. 1m, 23.91s. ₹48 (w), 13, 25 and 26 (p). SHP: 104, THP: 43, SHW: 21 and 77, FP: 921, Q: 709, Tanala: 8,714. Favourite: N R I Doublepower. Owners: M/s. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chitturi Krishna Kannaiah, Syed Ainuddin Arif, Vishal Gupta & Mrs. Sudha Gupta. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

7. R. RAGHUPATHI REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: ASHWA MOROCCO (K.G. Likith Appu) 1, Malaala (Ajay Kumar) 2, True Icon (Santosh Raj) 3 and Soloist (Shivansh) 4. Not run: Mysterious Angel and Yesterday. 3/4, 2-1/2 and Head. 1m, 23.05s. ₹28 (w), 14, 10 and 33 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 62, SHW: 20 and 24, FP: 149, Q: 59, Tanala: 1,927. Favourite: Candy Girl. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

8. TRIBUTE PLATE (DIV. I): OK BOSS (N.B. Kuldeep) 1, Park Lane (Md. Ismail) 2, Inderdhanush (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Eminency (R.S. Jodha) 4. 6, 2 and Neck. 1m, 11.97s. ₹18 (w), 14, 12 and 17 (p). SHP: 58, THP: 42, SHW: 15 and 28, FP: 138, Q: 59, Tanala: 675. Favourite: Ok Boss. Owners: Mr. Ashok Chukkla & Mr. A. Sandeep Kumar. Trainer: S.S.F. Hassan.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹7,748 (75 tkts.) & 30%: 1,068 (233 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 12, 164 (17 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 1,503 (20 tkts.), (ii) 1,985 (13 tkts.), (iii) 557 (121 (tkts.).

Girona back on top after stunning win over Barcelona

Dovbyk, Gutierrez, Valery and Stuani net in 4-2 victory; the leader, with 41 points from 16 games, remains unbeaten on the road this season

Final nail: Stuani's fourth goal in stoppage time sealed the deal. REUTERS

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
BARCELONA

High-flying Girona reclaimed top spot in LaLiga after beating champion Barcelona 4-2 away on Sunday, condemning Xavi Hernandez's side to its second league defeat of the season.

Artem Dovbyk and Miguel Gutierrez both scored for Girona in the first half, either side of Robert Lewandowski's equaliser, before Girona's Valery Fernandez and Cristhian Stuani added two more goals after the break with Ilkay Gundogan netting another for Barca.

Girona, which remains unbeaten away from home in LaLiga this season, tops the standings with 41 points from 16 games, having leapfrogged Real Madrid on 39 points.

Barcelona is fourth on 34 points, level with third-placed Atletico Madrid which has a game in hand.

Dovbyk put Girona in front in the 12th minute with a shot that bounced in off the bottom of the post for his eighth goal in his debut LaLiga season. Lewandowski rediscovered his goal-scoring form and equalised for the host seven minutes later, heading home following a corner.

Gutierrez restored Girona's lead before halftime, after the defender scored with an individual effort, and Fernandez made it 3-1 in the 80th minute with a low shot two minutes after coming off the bench.

Gundogan pulled another goal back for Barca before Girona's Stuani scored its fourth in stoppage time.

The results: LaLiga: Cadiz 1 (Marti 19) drew with Osasuna 1 (Budimir 70-pen); Barcelona 2 (Lewandowski 19, Gundogan 90+2) lost to Girona 4 (Dovbyk 12, Gutierrez 40, Valery 80, Stuani 90+5). **Premier League:** Tottenham 4 (Udogie 26, Richarlison 38 & 60, Son 85-pen) bt Newcastle 1 (Joelinton 90+1). **Serie A:** Salernitana 1 (Simy 75) lost to Bologna 2 (Zirkzee 9 & 20); Roma 1 (Lukaku 5) drew with Fiorentina 1 (Quarta 66). **Bundesliga:** Koln 0 drew with Mainz 0.

Vrinda not worried about price tag, wants to give her best in the WPL

P. K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

Vrinda Dinesh, like most female cricketers or fans in India, didn't miss a single game of the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League. As a player, she was thrilled to see the matches being played in front of huge crowds in the stadia of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai earlier this year.

Now, she could look forward to showcasing her own skills in front of those spectators. She created a sensation at the auction for the second edition of the WPL: she was picked up by UP Warriorz for ₹1.3 crore.

She was as surprised by the figure as anyone else. "When I heard my Karnataka teammate say during our training session (at Raipur), the number 1.3, I thought it must be 1.3 lakh," Vrinda said. "Then I realised there can't be such an amount at the WPL."

Probably the first thing the 22-year-old opener would want to do with that money is to buy the dream car for her parents. She doesn't feel she would be under pressure because of the price tag. "The price tag is not in my hands," she said. "I just want to give it my best. At the end of the day, I am just here to play and enjoy the sport."

Vrinda, who played for India-A against England-A in the recent T20 series, said she was happy she could join a team led by Alyssa Healy, one of her favourite cricketers.

She also recalled the faith in her shown by her Karnataka captain Veda Krishnamurthy, who had assured her that she would play all the games when she came back into the side. She repaid with scoring successive hundreds.

"That was a turning point in my career... I made my senior team debut in 2018; I played two games and then I sat out, probably for 22 matches."

She was rewarded for her fine performances on the domestic cricket, with spots in the India-A teams. Back in June, she played a key role in the final of the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Cup in Hong Kong. Her 29-ball 36 proved crucial as India-A beat Bangladesh-A by 31 runs in a low-scoring game.

Innings like that put her under the radar at a time when the WPL talent scouts have been looking for fresh talents.

Vrinda. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mohun Bagan loses to Maziya

AFC CUP

Press Trust of India
MALE

Mohun Bagan Super Giant on Monday went down 0-1 to Maziya Sports & Recreation to conclude its AFC Cup campaign with three losses from six matches.

The Juan Ferrando-coached side failed to make a comeback after a Hassan Raif stunner gave Maziya the breakthrough in the 40th minute.

Bagan finished its AFC Cup campaign in third place with seven points, while Maziya bowed out having collected six points from as many matches.

Run continues

Sizzling show: Railways women retained their title with a 80-50 win over Kerala in the final of the 73rd National basketball championship at Ludhiana on Sunday. Poonam Chaturvedi was adjudged the Most Valuable Player. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(MAHATHMA GANDHI HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bids are invited through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**for the following works: **(1)** No.: KPCL/2023-24/SE0068, Dt.: 01.12.2023 for **"Providing Periodical assistance for operation and routine maintenance works of Generator & auxiliaries, ODY & auxiliaries and other equipments connected to MGHE Power House for a period of Two Years". (2)** No.: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT928, Dt.: 01.12.2023 for **"Providing periodical assistance for operation and maintenance of head gates and forebay gates and maintenance of penstocks, turbine and its auxiliaries at MGHE Works for a period of 24 months".** Last date & time for online submission of tenders: **16.12.2023 & 14.12.2023, up to 16.30 Hrs. for Sl.No.(1) & (2)** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (EM&O), Mobile No: 9449598853 & Executive Engineer (MM), Mobile No.: 9141612716, e-mail: eemmmghe@gmail.com, MGHE, KPCL, Jogfalls-577435, Sagar Tq., Shivamogga Dist, Karnataka.**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the the Executive Engineer
(South zone & Bommanahalli Constituency)
Lakes Divison room No.309 3rd Floor,New Building, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, N.R Square , Bengaluru-560002

No:EE- South Zone & BC (Lakes) /TN-03/2023-24
Date-11-12-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK Karnataka Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on Item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES or any state Government Organizations. The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Procurement Website (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka procurement Platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the valid Registration Certificate and shall be submitted through Karnataka Procurement Portal. (Standard tender Bid Document)

SL. No	Name of the Work	Value of work (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (In Rupees)
1	Annual maintenance of STP and other Repair, Painting and other allied works for STP plants in Deepanjali Lake- call 2 - 12 Months	22.50	45000.00
2	Annual maintenance of STP and other Repaire painting and other allied works for STP plants in Byrasandra lake (Chikkapete)- call 2 - 12 Months	22.50	45000.00
3	Annual maintenance of STP and other Repaire painting and allied works for STP plants in Ibblur lake. 12 Months	15.00	37500.00

Calendar of events:
(1) Last Date & Time for receipt Of Tenders : **27.12.2023 up to 16:00 hours.** (2) Opening of Tender Document :**29.12.2023 at 16:30 hours**

sd/- Executive Engineer
(South zone & Bommanahalli Constituency)
BBMP Bengaluru

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Office of the Chief Engineer, RWS&SD, First Floor, "E" Block, KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009, Ph: 080-22533700, e-mail: cerws14@gmail.com

No. RWSSD/2023-24/SE0123 Date: 11-12-2023

TENDER INVITATION

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka invites Tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible bidders in two cover system (Technical and Financial bid) for **Development and Operation & Maintenance of M&E System under Karnataka Sustainable Rural Water Supply Program (KSRWSP) - World Bank Assisted.**
The last date for submission of bids through e-portal is **12-01-2023.**
EMD Amount is **Rs. 3,00,000/-**

Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority
RDW&SD, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/BCPL/2497/2023-24

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ.
ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-576101 ದೂ: 0820-2520446/2520306 Fax: 0820-2524236
Web : www.udupicity.mrc.gov.in E-Mail : itstaff_ulb_udupi@yahoo.com

UCMC/HS/SSM/CR-51/2023-24 Date:11/12/2023

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರನ್ವಯ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 6.0 ಕ್ಯೂಮೀ ಸಾಮಾರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಟ್ರಕ್ ಮೌಂಟೆಡ್ ಸ್ಟ್ರೀಟ್ ಸ್ವೀಪಿಂಗ್ ಮೆಷಿನ್ ವಾಹನವನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 26.12.2023 ಸಮಯ 5.00** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರು / ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜನ್ಸಿಯವರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ: 2021-2022ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಅಯೋಗದ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮೂಲ ಅನುದಾನ

ಕೆಲಸದ ಹಸರು: (1) Procurement of 6.0 Cum Capacity Truck Mounted Street Sweeping Machine, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2023-24/IND0016, ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ **Rs.83,72,100.00/-,** ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ **Rs.1,67,442.00/-**

ಪಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಅ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/524/23-24 ದಿ: 11.12.2023 ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, BBMP Office,
Near Chowdeshwari Bus Stop, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 560054.

No: EE/RRND/Tend/07/2023-24 **Date: 11-12-2023**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Single Cover Tender) (Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of work detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-1)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category	Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Filling of Potholes at Ward Roads in Ward No.45, Rajarajeshwarinagara for the year 2023-24. **(Call-2) - (ST)**	**15.00**	**18,750.00**

Calendar of Events: **1)** The Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13-12-2023 Onwards. 2)** Tenders must be Submitted online through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 17.30 Hours on 27-12-2023**. **3)** Date of Opening of Tender is **29-12-2023 after 11.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, BBMP.

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